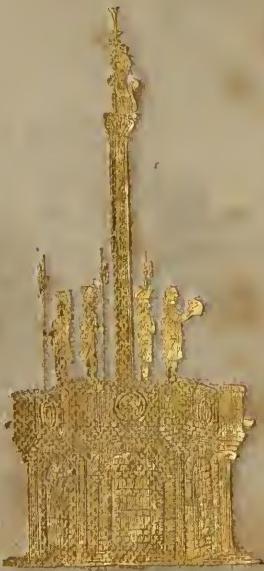


WALKS IN EDINBURGH



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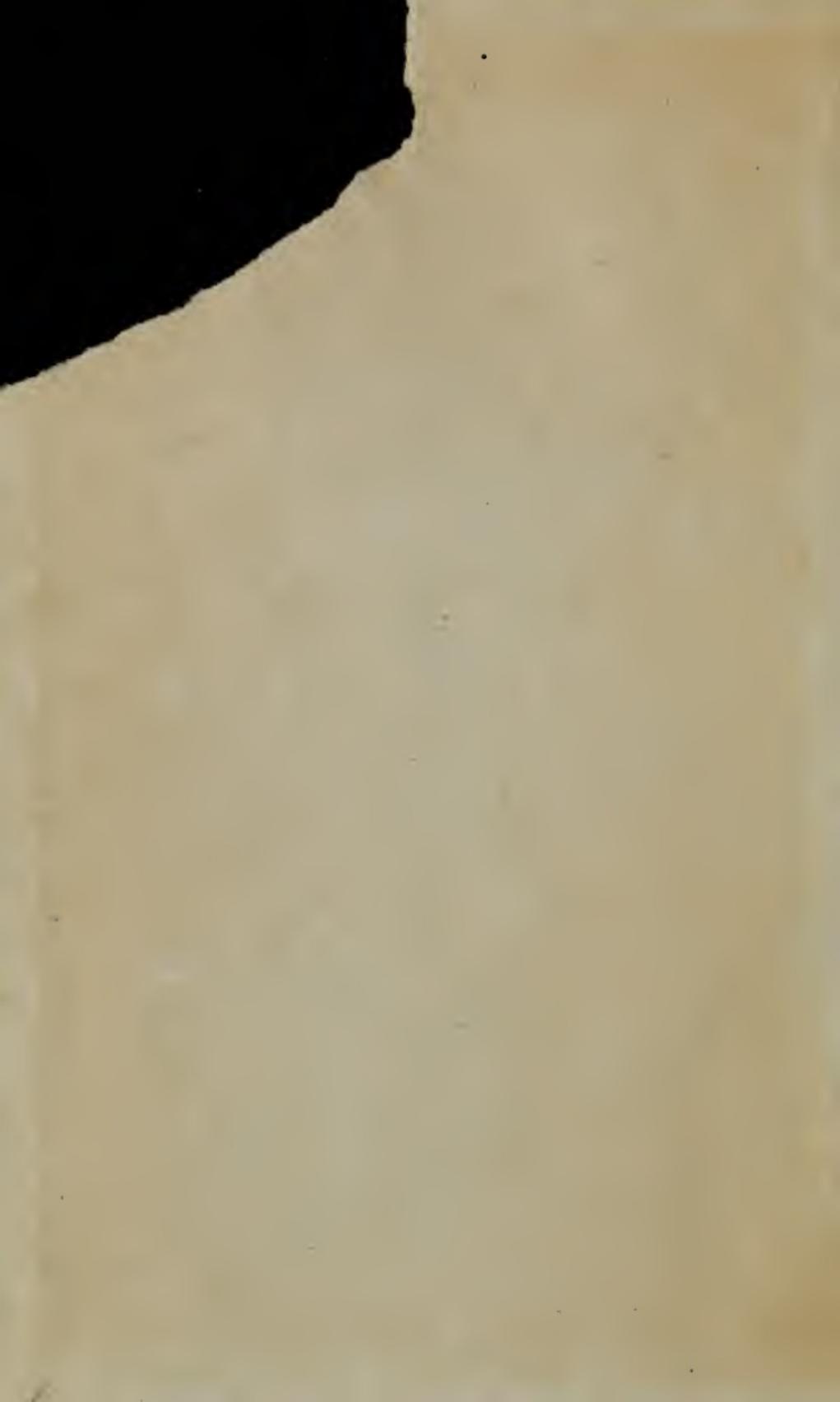


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Walks in Edinburgh

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WALKS IN EDINBURGH.

BY ROBERT CHAMBERS,
AUTHOR OF "TRADITIONS OF EDINBURGH."

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PREFACE.

THE success of the “Traditions of Edinburgh” has encouraged me to attempt a companion to that Work, applying to the more general features of the City, and partly devoted to the service of strangers.

The present Work will be found to contain a considerable quantity of information, not formerly embodied in books descriptive of Edinburgh,—part of which has the merit of being derived from credible oral sources ; whilst a greater portion is the result of a diligent research among original and recondite documents. The whole is interspersed with a liberal admixture of anecdote, similar to that which appears to have been successful in the “Traditions of Edinburgh.”

Whilst the originality in point of *matter* lays considerable claims to the attention of the citizen, the whole *manner* of the Book is calculated for the stranger. In a series of Walks, radiating from a central spot, the visitor of our Northern Metropolis is conducted through all the parts of the Town worthy of his notice ; and the flood of illustration is brought to bear upon the most conspicuous objects, with copiousness proportioned to the degree of curiosity supposed to be in each case excited. In dealing out these proportions, I will be found to differ from many of my predecessors, some of whose ordinary *stock* topics are here altogether neglected,—while the whole number is, perhaps, doubled. I have not considered public buildings the sole object of curiosity in our ancient capital ; nor have I scrupled to devote a few more pages to such subjects as the Parliament House and the Palace of our

Scottish Monarchs, than to the non-existent Monastery of St. Catherine of Sienna, the Canongate Church, and the Trades' Maiden Hospital.

I have also dared to be original in another important particular ; namely, the correction of a few venerable blunders, bequeathed by Maitland to Arnot, and by Arnot to his thousand and one compounders and repeaters.

The picturesque style, which I have, in a few cases, with all humility, assumed, and the train of sentiment occasionally indulged in, proceed solely from my patriotic desire of making the capital of my native country appear in all its best lights, and of raising in the breasts of strangers those feelings in reference to its objects, which form the great charm of a visit to a memorable place. In the hurry of a tour, and the common-place anxieties in which people are then involved, it is not easy to command a flow of heart or

of soul upon every occasion when it would be pleasing ; and it may therefore be proper to provide for the stranger's wants in this respect, as well as in the more important particulars of mile-stones, coaches, and hotels.

INDIA PLACE, *August 16, 1825.*

OUTLINE OF THE CITY.

A

WALKS IN EDINBURGH.

OUTLINE OF THE CITY.

EDINBURGH is divided into two grand departments,—the OLD and the NEW TOWN,—and may be described as situated upon three oblong ridges, which lie, parallel to each other, from east to west. The least elevated and most extensive ridge is that to the north, occupied by the NEW TOWN; the central ridge, which rises to the greatest height, and exhibits the most picturesque natural character, is occupied by the ancient and original part of the city; while that to the south, though covered, for the most part, by modern buildings, is comprehended in the same general designation of the OLD TOWN, or only distinguished by the

popular phrase—the SOUTH SIDE. These various rising grounds are separated from each other by deep vallies: whereof that which divides the Old from the New Town, is called the NORTH LOCH, (having been formerly a lake); while that to the south, an equally deep and extensive valley, has been for several centuries occupied by a crowded street called the COWGATE,—the GRASSMARKET, and one or two other streets, skirting the central hill on both sides. Two continuous bridges, extending from north to south across these hollow plains, connect all the three districts of the town, being respectively termed the NORTH and SOUTH BRIDGES; by which means another division of the town arises,—namely, that of *high* and *low*,—altogether suggesting the grotesque but quite descriptive idea of a *city two storeys in height*, having a street-door for good company, and a sunk-area devoted exclusively to menial uses.

In consequence of its division into three separate and distinct portions, there is no city of its extent which is less perplexing to a stranger, or where he is less likely to lose his way, than Edinburgh. There are numerous points from which he can survey the whole at a glance;

and, “after the slightest inspection, he cannot possibly mistake one division from another; because the Old Town, the New Town, and the Southern Districts, are each of moderate extent, and have no more resemblance to one another, than if they had been built by different nations, or in distant quarters of the globe.” *

The central hill, which is a mile in length, rises gradually from the plain at its eastern extremity, where is situated the PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE, flanked on the south by the rude eminences of Arthur’s Seat and Salisbury Crags, and on the north by the Calton Hill, to its western termination, which, consisting in a precipitous rock, two hundred feet above the level of the surrounding country, is the site of that far-famed and once important fortress—EDINBURGH CASTLE. Along the straight acclivity or *dorsum* of the hill extends the principal street of the Old Town, from which diverge on both sides about two hundred and sixty narrow parallel streets, here called *Closes*,

* *Beauties of Scotland*, i, 7.

terminated on either side by the North Loch and the Cowgate. Many of the houses are of fine old architecture; and all of them are of great height, which, added to the natural elevation of the ground, gives the Old Town a sublime pre-eminence over the more modern parts of the city.

The SOUTHERN DISTRICTS are chiefly remarkable for containing the COLLEGE, together with the necessary precincts of such an establishment, and the handsome residences of the middling ranks of the citizens.

The NEW TOWN is by far the most elegant part of the city. It is laid out after a regular plan; and the houses being all of modern, many of them of contemporaneous erection, constructed of the most beautiful materials, and of similar height, the effect of the whole is very splendid. It is perhaps true, that, as individual buildings, both those of a private and public nature, are infinitely surpassed by particular specimens in other countries,—the former being no doubt inferior to the palaces of the Italian noblesse, and the latter exhibiting nothing of that stupendous and sumptuous magnificence which characterises the public build-

ings of London,—nevertheless, it is equally certain, that so large and so regular an assemblage of tasteful structures, unmixed with the disgust of meaner buildings, cannot anywhere be found.

The irregularity of the ground whereon Edinburgh is situated, gives the whole city a picturesque character, which many travellers have declared to be equalled—nay, resembled—in no other European city. “Above all,” says an eloquent modern writer, “here is all the sublimity of situation and scenery, mountains near and far off, rocks and glens, and the sea itself, almost within hearing of its waves. Every where, all around, you have rocks frowning over rocks in imperial elevation, and descending, among the smoke and dust of a city, into dark depths, such as Nature alone can excavate. Here the proudest palaces must be content to catch the shadows of mountains, and the grandest of fortresses to appear like the dwellings of pygmies perched on the bulwarks of creation.”* It is this singular combination

* Peter’s Letters to his Kinsfolk, i, 8.

of the grandeur of nature and art that distinguishes Edinburgh from all other cities whatsoever. Such broad and massy lights—such abrupt, profound shades! Part of the above panegyric, fanciful as it may seem, is actually realized, when the winter sun casts the giant shadow of the Castle athwart the pale splendour of the New Town. The very contrast of the grim old castellated city, with its juvenile companion, has an effect the most singular, perhaps, and admirable, which could be produced by any arrangement of real or imaginary scenery.

THE STRANGER'S ENTRÉE.

THE STRANGER'S ENTREE.

As the EASTERN APPROACH to the city is that by which the English and foreign traveller usually makes his *entrée*, we shall begin by describing the most prominent objects which strike the eye in this quarter.

After passing PIERSHILL BARRACKS, about a mile to the east of the city, the traveller perceives, in a hollow plain to the right, the ruins of RESTALRIG CHURCH, which was founded by James III, king of Scotland, about four hundred years ago, and which may command the interest of the stranger, when he is informed, that here are buried the ancestors and wife of the unfortunate Lord Balmerino, who was executed upon Towerhill for his concern in the Rebellion of 1745.

A little farther on, the traveller enters the first portion of a new road, (formed in 1816,) leading towards and over the CALTON HILL, the summit of which is here seen crowned by a tall column erected by the inhabitants of Edinburgh to the memory of NELSON. Close at hand, upon the south side of the road, the hill called ARTHUR'S SEAT takes its rise; and here the stranger is also in the immediate neighbourhood of MUSCHAT'S CAIRN, an object of considerable interest, to which we shall take some other opportunity of conducting him. The plain over which he passes, before reaching the Calton Hill, is remarkable as having been, in 1594, the scene of a muster of troops which King James VI (first of England) headed in person, when threatened by the attacks of the ambitious and turbulent Bothwell; the only instance upon record of this pacific monarch ever appearing in an active military capacity. It must be remarked, however, that no conflict took place.

In passing along this low and straight road, a distant view is caught of the eminences of the OLD TOWN; and, upon the right hand, the traveller sees an extensive plain stretching be-

tween the Calton Hill and Leith, the greater part of which is in the progress of being covered with beautiful private buildings, which, being placed along a slope, and commanding an extensive and admirable view, are destined, in the opinion of many, to form in time the finest residences in the city. The broad flowing skirts of the Calton Hill are already, as it were, embroidered with the incipient terraces and crescents of this EASTERN NEW TOWN.

The ground over which the traveller now passes is remarkable as having been, in 1571, the scene of a conflict between the troops of the Regent Morton and a party which still held out for Queen Mary, who was then in captivity. It was called the Battle of the Quarrel Holes,—a spot in the neighbourhood,—and was the last pitched battle fought between these contending factions in Scotland.

It is the valuable advantage of the approach by the Calton Hill that the stranger is first astonished by the antique grandeur of the Old Town, and then pleased with the modern beauty of the NEW. The road sweeps along the southern side of the hill, which hitherto conceals all the improved part of Edinburgh; and

from this high station the stranger can only survey the venerable “palaces and towers,” which, sixty years ago, would have formed his sole treat in visiting the Scottish capital. Upon approaching the first eminence of the hill, he ought to stop a few minutes, and cast his eyes southwards. He will there see the lion-like Arthur’s Seat, couching, as for the spring, behind the rampant formed to the west by SALISBURY CRAGS, the abrupt, broken face of which overhangs the town in a very striking manner. These hills have as wild an appearance as if they were situated in a desert, and not in the neighbourhood of a populous city. Upon the shoulder of one of the lower ridges of Arthur’s Seat stands a small but very picturesque fragment of the ancient CHAPEL OF ST. ANTHONY, with which every reader must have become acquainted through the tale entitled “The Heart of Mid-Lothian,” by the Author of Waverley. Between these hills and the feet of the spectator is placed upon a low plain the celebrated palace of HOLYROOD HOUSE, of which the greater part was built in the reign of Charles II,—the towers nearest to the Calton Hill being the only portion of the building

which lays claim to remote antiquity. This beautiful edifice, which, in its original form, and while Scotland had a whole king to herself, was the scene of courtly splendour, is now empty and desolate. Its gilded spires yet sparkle in the rays of the sun ; but no illuminating power lights up the dreary void within. Tea-gardens now occupy the space where formerly tournaments* were exhibited before the great and the beautiful. The miserable habitations of the common people make insidious approaches to the very walls of the palace, and seem like reptiles hurrying towards the goodly corpse of a fallen victim. To add to the ghastliness of the scene, the ancient monastic ruin, attached to the modern edifice, with its dark-brown walls, deep-socketted window-holes, and the dank, church-yard-like ground around it, suggest to the spectator the idea of a hideous, half-corrupted skull, placed for penance in the cell, and before the eyes of a living and youthful devotee.

* James IV had tournaments in front of the Palace at his marriage with Margaret of England.

From this commanding point the stranger can also discover, between the Calton Hill (whereon he stands) and the Palace, a suburban village, denominated the ABBEY HILL; also, farther to the right, the lower part of the Old Town; and, at some distance, close beneath the face of Salisbury Crags, a lower ridge, designated ST. LEONARD'S, which has borne great interest in the eyes of the public ever since the publication of a fictitious work just alluded to.

Advancing about two hundred yards westward, the stranger gets a partial glimpse of the New Town, and a complete general view of the ancient part of the city. The picturesque situation, and the singularly beautiful and varied external appearance of Edinburgh, are here shown off to great advantage. To the south and west extends the huge, long, dark ridge of the Old Town, gradually swelling up towards the CASTLE at the extremity, and seeming as if, by a reversal of the rules of perspective, the houses increase in height and size, in proportion as they recede from the eye. The towers of the CASTLE in the distance harmonize finely with the castellated and warlike

aspect of the intermediate masses of building. This magnificent scene has suggested to the minds of many travellers ideas not to be excited by the first sight of any other large city. A tourist,* who saw it eighty years ago, has finely said, that from this side the town presents the unique appearance of *one vast castle*; and another,† still more fanciful, has compared it to a long leviathan-like monster, of which the head is raised, and the tail depressed,—while numerous spires, and striking irregularities, bristle along the back,

“Like quills upon the fretful porcupine.”

In sunshine and in shade these immense piles have a like imposing effect; and even the dense coal smoke, which continually overhangs the town, can no more hide its stupendous features, than could a veil of thin gauze, thrown over the recumbent statue of a Titan, conceal the gigantic proportions which it only shrouded.

* Defoe.

† Topham.

Advancing westwards, under the upper eminence of the Calton Hill, to which NELSON'S MONUMENT seems to act as a spire, and which is in time to be still further loaded by the beauty of the PARTHENON, the traveller reaches the BRIDEWELL and JAIL, two large public buildings upon the left, the former erected in 1791-6,* the latter in 1817. Here he loses sight of the Old Town, and enters into all the splendours of the New. From the road in front of the Jail, he can look westwards along the beautiful terrace of PRINCE'S STREET, which is not less than a mile in length. Immediately to the west of the JAIL lies the CALTON HILL BURYING-GROUND, which contains the grave and cylindrical-shaped monument of the celebrated David Hume. The building

* It is worthy of remark, that this was the first building of the name, and almost of the kind, known in Edinburgh. Being erected at a time when the public mind was much and unhappily agitated, and the architecture assuming a strange fortress-like appearance, a sort of apprehension was entertained by the people, that it would turn out to be a *Bastile*.

immediately west of this, upon the left hand, is the POST-OFFICE; opposite to which is the WATERLOO HOTEL, by far the largest, if not the most splendid, establishment of this sort in Edinburgh. The stranger now crosses the REGENT'S BRIDGE, which connects the Calton Hill with the ridge upon which the New Town is chiefly built. It was projected in 1788, founded in 1815, and finished upon the 18th of August 1819, when it was for the first time passed by Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, as is recorded by an inscription above the open arch on the south side. Through the beautiful Corinthian pillars which adorn the opening, a very striking view is obtained of part of the Old Town, the dark masses of which, so strangely in contrast with the lovely architecture of the arch, show like a black pencil-drawing seen through a framework of gold.

To the west of the arch, upon the south side, stands the STAMP OFFICE, a large building, surmounted by the royal arms; which, with the rest of the edifices of this place, forming what are called the WATERLOO BUILDINGS, are adorned by beautiful open colonnades, after the model of those in the temple of Erechtheus

at Athens. It was on entering from the west upon this street, and seeing its splendid vista terminated so finely by Nelson's Monument, and a portion of the Calton Hill, which was covered from top to bottom with acclaiming multitudes, that his present Majesty exclaimed in a sort of rapture, “How superb !” But in order to appreciate the circumstances which called forth this royal compliment, the stranger will require to stop at the junction of the Waterloo Buildings and Prince's Street,—perhaps in front of the THEATRE-ROYAL, which he will distinguish by the statues of Shakespeare and the Muses of Tragedy and Comedy surmounting it,—and, looking back at what he has passed, imagine these sumptuous edifices clustered over with human heads, the street occupied by the chivalrous figures of a pageant, and the hill at the termination clad all over with people, the whole glancing joyously in the intense light of the summer sun.

As the spot to which we have now conducted the traveller, is, in some respects, the centre of the town, and as it is probable that he will take up his abode in one of the numerous hotels which closely surround it in every direction,

(for a list of which we refer him to the end of this volume), we shall stop here, premising, that it will be the starting-point of all the walks through which he is hereafter to be conducted.

WALK TO THE CASTLE.

WALK TO THE CASTLE.

THE spot to which the stranger has just been conducted, is well deserving of the distinction which we have given it. Here the population of the Old Town is as it were disembogued into the New, through the great channel of communication — the NORTH BRIDGE. In this neighbourhood also, as we have stated, lie the principal hotels, from which innumerable coaches are constantly departing for every district of the kingdom. Here, indeed, of all places in the town, people of every description “most do congregate;” and there is no period of the day when it does not present a scene animated with all the charms of fashion, business, and amusement.

Opposite to the termination of the North Bridge stands, upon a slight eminence, the

GENERAL REGISTER-HOUSE OF SCOTLAND, a very beautiful building, and devoted to a most important purpose, the composition and preservation of the public records. This structure was founded in the year 1774, but was not completed for many years, on account of the deficiency of funds. It is now an entire square of 200 feet, having a dome in the centre of 50 feet in diameter. The design was by the celebrated architect, Robert Adams; and the fabric, altogether, commands, we think, more general admiration than any other public building in Edinburgh, not excepting even the massive specimens of the Grecian school which have recently risen in the city. THE RECORDS OF SCOTLAND have been more unfortunate than those of any other nation; and it has only been of late years that the nation has recovered the spirit for preserving them, which was well nigh broken by their numerous mishaps. The national muniments first met with a sort of universal destruction at the hands of Edward I, who thus sought to destroy the very memory of Scottish independence; and at the Reformation, when the store-houses of learning were violated and destroyed, many valuable docu-

ments, long preserved by the monks, either perished altogether, or were taken abroad by their keepers. At a later period, the rapacious Cromwell carried off all that he found deposited in Edinburgh Castle (being all that were then in the possession of government), when that fortress fell into his hands in 1650. At the Restoration, when they were sent back, a considerable portion was unfortunately lost at sea ; and the rest were found to be so confused, that they were suffered to lie *perdu* for upwards of a century, without any attempt being made to arrange them. Till the erection of the present building, the Records of Scotland were kept in a small room under the Parliament House, where they were, in a great measure, huddled indiscriminately together, so as to be of little service to the country ; and it is to the recent exertions of the late Earl of Morton, the late ingenious and indefatigable Mr. William Robertson, author of a History of Greece, and editor of an Index of Missing Charters, and of the present Thomas Thomson, Esq., Deputy-Clerk Register, that Scotland owes the restoration of her records, which now stand no chance of further dilapidation.

If the stranger takes his station upon the crowded pavement in front of the Register-House (turning his back upon the same), he will have upon his left hand the splendid street through which he entered the city, and, upon his right, the long-sweeping line of Prince's Street, while before his eyes extends the bridge connecting the two great divisions of the city. A busy thoroughfare, denominated Leith Street, leads aside in an oblique direction towards the sea-port of Edinburgh; and other small streets of lesser importance branch off all round. The THEATRE-ROYAL, on the opposite side of the street, is an exceedingly plain building, and singularly small, considering the size of the city wherein it serves as one of the principal places of amusement. But, to compensate this, the stranger will find its internal economy very handsome, and possessed of conveniences in point of hearing, which larger houses cannot command.

It is probable that the stranger's first impulse will be to go westwards, along Prince's Street; and as this is, perhaps, the most advisable course he can pursue, we shall proceed to point

out every object of curiosity which may meet his view in this direction.

The very first house which he passes, after leaving the Register-House, is interesting in no small degree, as containing the **SHOP AND WAREHOUSES OF MESSRS. CONSTABLE AND COMPANY**, a bibliopolic firm, which, for extent of business, and the importance of the works they publish, is inferior, we believe, to no similar establishment. We trust we shall be justified in saying so, when we remind the reader, that from this great literary mart proceed the Edinburgh Review, and the works of the Author of *Waverley*,—books very different in their character, but which are alike distinguished by a popularity totally unexampled in the annals of letters. A first-rate publication warehouse like this, is certainly a most important and interesting object. It contains the headquarters of many glorious missions. From it, ever and anon, go forth the swift-footed messengers of instruction, and mental delight, to every quarter of the world. It is like the chief volcano of the moon, from which streaks of brilliant light radiate all round, and spread over the whole surface of the dull planet. A great *pub-*

lication-day here, is attended with an effect somewhat similar to what we might suppose the probable consequences of a total breaking up of the cave of Eolus, if that divinity were suddenly to permit *all his winds* to rush forth at once upon their eager errands over far-spread continent and sea.

Mr. Archibald Constable, the founder of this important establishment, commenced business about thirty years ago, at a time when the booksellers of Edinburgh were either humble dependants on those of London, or scarcely worthy of the name. He found the business depressed for want of spirit in those who were engaged in it; while the few good authors of whom Scotland could then boast, either sought encouragement in London, or dwindled on with the Edinburgh booksellers in hopeless insignificance. Happily adopting the generous resolution of giving proper rewards to the literary merit which lay dormant, and being possessed of a discriminating judgment which enabled him “to avail himself, to an un hoped-for extent, of the various kinds of talent which his country produced,” he, by an admirable system of liberality and discretion, in a few years suc-

ceeded in rendering Edinburgh “the mart of her own literature, and established there a court of letters, which must command respect, even from those most inclined to dissent from many of its canons.”* The notice which we have thought it necessary to give of this meritorious individual, will be justly appreciated by the *stranger*, when he considers the close and interesting relation which his name bears to that important subject, the literature of Scotland, and that it is perhaps owing to him, and the works which he has been the cause of bringing before the public, that the stranger has been determined in the visit which he is now paying to the Scottish metropolis.

The house which Messrs. Constable and Company at present occupy, is a building of some note, and deserves particular attention. It was the first house designed and founded in the New Town of Edinburgh, and, as such, is exempted from all burgal taxation, *that* having been the *bonus* offered by the magistrates to the enterprising individual who should first favour

* See Introduction to “Fortunes of Nigel.”

their great object, by the purchase of a *feu* or piece of building-ground. The person who did so was Mr. John Neale, a silk-mercer in the Old Town, who is otherwise remarkable, as having been the first tradesman in Edinburgh who assumed the phrase *haberdasher*, as a description of his profession. He made a fortune in business ; and wishing, perhaps, to outshine all his brethren in trade, devoted a considerable sum to the erection of this handsome edifice, whither he designed to remove his shop from the dark and narrow premises which he was constrained to occupy in the Old Town. This shifting of his seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium was not, however, successful, or even carried thoroughly into effect ; for, about the year 1774, having, by way of experiment, sent a colony of shopmen over the North Loch, he found the attempt so little encouraged, and the inhabitants of the New Town so few, that he was soon obliged to call back the settlers, and hold himself contented in the meantime with the mother country. After this, some other enterprising tradesmen removed to the shops in the eastern division of Prince's Street, but it was remarked, that almost all soon be

came bankrupt; and it was not till towards the year 1790, when the New Town had extended over a good deal of ground, so as to render this street a considerable thoroughfare, that the few shops then opened could be considered so prosperous as those in the more central streets of the Old Town.

Mr. Neale afterwards let the upper flats of this house to Mr. James Dun, formerly an inn-keeper at Blacksheils, latterly in the Pleasance of Edinburgh,* who removed thither about the year 1776. He fitted up the house in a singularly elegant style; and thinking himself entitled to designate his establishment by a proportionably splendid and singular name, called it, in gilt letters upon the outside, “DUN’S HOTEL.” This was the first time that the word *hotel* had ever been heard of in Scotland, where the phrase *stabler* was at that time the most popular term for expressing the calling of an inn-keeper; and the public curiosity was excited to a no small degree in vain speculations respect-

* A street in the suburbs, formerly the chief entrance from the south.

ing its real meaning. Mr. Dun's house being chiefly the resort of strangers, and the people of the town being in a great measure ignorant of the very nature of the establishment, which was then considered as situated in a remote quarter of the city, this curiosity was protracted for a considerable time; but settled down at last in a general idea, that the *hotel* was neither more nor less than a house of bad fame. The proprietor was one day surprised by a message from the Lord Provost (Kincaid), who seriously remonstrated with him respecting the indecency of his sign, and earnestly desired him at least to save the public the scandal of its exhibition, whatever might be the real purpose or nature of his house.

Notwithstanding this inauspicious commencement, Mr. Dun eventually realized a considerable fortune in business; and his example was shortly followed by other individuals, who planted themselves all around his dwelling, in the neighbourhood of which these places of entertainment have ever since chiefly continued. That the stranger visiting Edinburgh, in this age of luxury and improvement, may be able to appreciate as they deserve the accommodations

which he now enjoys, we shall present him with a sketch of the best inn of the year 1775, in which he must have lodged, had he been so unfortunate as to live and travel fifty years ago. “On my first arrival,” says Topham, “my companion and self, after the fatigue of a long day’s journey, were landed at one of those stable-keepers (for they have modesty enough to give themselves no higher denomination), in a part of the town called the Pleasance; and on entering the house, we were conducted by a poor devil of a girl, without shoes or stockings, and with only a single linsey-woolsey petticoat, which just reached half way to her ankles, into a room where about twenty Scotch drovers (*i.e.*, cattle-drivers) were regaling themselves with whisky and potatoes. You may guess our amazement, when we were informed that this was the best inn in the metropolis,—that we could have no beds, unless we had an inclination to sleep together, and in the same room with the company which a stage-coach had that moment discharged. Well, said I to my friend (for you must know that I have more patience on these occasions than wit on any other), there is nothing like seeing men

and manners ; and perhaps we may be able to repose ourselves at some coffee-house. Accordingly, on inquiry, we discovered that there was a good dame by the Cross, who acted in the double capacity of pouring out coffee, or letting lodgings to strangers, as we were. She was easily to be found out ; and with all the conciliating complaisance of a maîtresse d'hôtel, conducted us to our destined apartments ; which were, indeed, six storeys high, but so infernal to appearance, that you would have thought yourself in the regions of Erebus."

Before quitting this interesting house, we beg to point out as a curiosity the flag-stone which, like a broad draw-bridge thrown across the sunk area, gives entry to the shop. It is one enormous entire stone, and, we believe, the only thing of the kind in Edinburgh. Hailes Quarry (to the west of the city) had the honour of supplying this singular mass, which, before it was laid down in its present situation, stood for some time at a distance from the building, and attracted the attention of all ranks of people, who flocked to behold it. Mr. Neale boasted, that it had laid waste two toll-bars before reaching the city.

About forty yards to the westward of Mr. Constable's shop, is that of another celebrated publisher, MR. BLACKWOOD, whose far-famed magazine must have rendered "*Number Seventeen*" an object of some interest to strangers. This gentleman, without having yet exhibited the comprehensive genius of Mr. Constable, has already done essential service to Scottish literature, by the establishment of another Oracle of Criticism, perhaps equal in power, and by no means inferior in point of talent, to its great prototype, the Edinburgh Review, and which is, in one respect, even more deserving of respect, namely, in its having raised up a greater number of meritorious rivals and imitators, and thereby having had a more extensive and beneficial effect upon literature in general. Mr. Blackwood's premises form the lounge and resort of the principal Tory literati.

Passing along Prince's Street, the Old Town rising in dark and craggy grandeur upon the left, the stranger reaches the EARTHEN MOUND, which serves as a secondary and inferior communication between the two great divisions of the city. There is a quality of vastness in this object which almost compensates its enormous

deformity. It is composed of the earth dug out of the foundations of the modern buildings of Edinburgh, of which it is calculated to contain about two millions of cart-loads. Little more than forty years have elapsed since the first commencement of this great *work*, which may at present be considered as completed, other receptacles having of late years been found for the deposition of all superfluous rubbish, and it being now the intention of the magistrates to erect upon it two lines of shops, which are to be fitted up in the novel and elegant form of an arcade. The principal place now appointed for the deposition of rubbish is that part of the valley of the North Loch lying to the east of the Earthen Mound, which is to be filled up to a considerable height, and afterwards laid out in pleasure-grounds. Here, at present, there are upwards of a thousand cart-loads deposited every day,—a striking, though indirect, proof of the rapid extension of the city, which, indeed, is such as almost to realise Horace's hyperbole,—

“ Jam pauca aratro jugera regiæ
“ Moles relinquent.”

The following paragraph will be found to

contain some curious information respecting the Earthen Mound, not formerly known.

About the year 1781, when the buildings of the New Town had extended westwards so far as Hanover Street, some shopkeepers in the Lawnmarket and Castlehill (the western part of the Old Town), who were in the habit of frequently visiting the opposite bank of the North Loch, in order to observe the progress of the buildings, finding it inconvenient to go round by the North Bridge, which had been erected about ten years before, fell upon the expedient of laying a few planks upon the marshy bottom of the intermediate valley, over which they could pass dry-shod, and reach the object of their curiosity at about one-third of the expense of travel. This measure was chiefly promoted by Mr. George Boyd, a public-spirited dealer in tartan, whose legs, from a certain deformity inherent in them, procured him the popular nickname of *Five o'Clock*. The passage was soon after rendered firmer and more agreeable by some loose earth accidentally thrown out from a quarry which it was attempted to excavate at this spot in the north bank of the Loch ; and this was the means

of suggesting to the consideration of many, that if the earth dug from the foundations of the buildings in the New Town were deposited here, the convenience of the builders would not be lost sight of, while the advantage of a new bridge would be supplied to the general public at no expense. Upon a representation, therefore, made to the magistrates by the inhabitants of the Lawnmarket and Castlehill, it was (November 1782) decreed by the Town Council, that all rubbish, &c., should be brought to this spot; whereby in the course of a very few years, a mass was raised to the required height, which became such a thoroughfare, that it was at length found necessary to open up the passage of Bank Street, in order to admit carriages, the passage into the Old Town having hitherto chiefly been through Lady Stair's Close, which only admitted pedestrians. It was very remarkable, and not a little ludicrous, that, by this disruption of the ancient street, Mr. Boyd, the original projector of the Earthen Mound, had the mortification to see his own house demolished; and, as if the public were determined to render him no thanks whatever for his suggestion, the original name given to

his work, of *Geordie Boyd's Brig*, has been for many years lost and unknown. In order to show how matters of taste strike different eyes, we ought to mention, that Newton, who visited Edinburgh at this time, lauds the Earthen Mound to the skies, and expresses his belief, that a work so stupendous, so convenient, and so cheap, would be remembered for ever by the public, to the credit of the chief magistrate who was instrumental in perfecting it; and that, while the deeds of kings and heroes were forgotten, the world would, in gratitude, confer an immortal fame upon *Provost Grieve's Brig*.

At the northern extremity of the Mound, there has lately been erected a large building, in the Doric style of architecture (after a plan by Mr. Playfair), containing accommodation for the Royal Society, the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland, and other learned bodies. The expense of driving the numerous piles with which it was considered necessary to strengthen and ensure the foundation of this elegant structure, was no less than £1600. The Royal Society was instituted in 1718, by the masters of the High School of Edinburgh, and Mr. Thomas Ruddiman, whose reputation as a

scholar must be familiar to every stranger. Sir Walter Scott is the present president. The Society of Antiquaries is of much later institution, having been first projected (by the Earl of Buchan) in the year 1780. Their Museum already contains a collection of very curious articles; among which we recollect a shirt of chain armour,—two mummies,—the camp-bottle used by the Duke of Perth in the Rebellion of 1715,—the colours carried by the Covenanters during the civil war,—the stool thrown by Jenny Geddes at the head of the Bishop of Edinburgh, when that prelate, for the first time, read the liturgy appointed for the use of the Scottish church by Charles I,—and, above all, the *Maiden*, or Scottish guillotine, being the identical instrument introduced by the Regent Morton, and with which he himself was executed in 1581, besides, at different periods since that era, the gallant cavalier Sir George Gordon of Haddo, the brave Montrose, the Marquis and the Earl of Argyll, besides many of inferior note, who fell sacrifices to party in the *killing times* previous to the Revolution, when this dreadful engine was at last disused.

In passing along the Earthen Mound towards

the Old Town, the stranger will behold with surprise the back of one of the immense houses we have elsewhere alluded to, comprising, perhaps, the residences of three score families, and exhibiting more than the double of that number of windows. This is the chief side of a small square called James's Court, which, in former times, was occupied by none but the better orders of society. Here once dwelt the celebrated David Hume, James Boswell, &c.; and here lived, for a few days, the illustrious Johnson. It is now possessed almost entirely by the inferior ranks. When Edinburgh was illuminated in honour of the victory at Trafalgar, the inhabitants of James's Court, then more wealthy and respectable than now, clubbed, in order that they might, by lighting up particular windows throughout this vast esplanade of wall, form the colossal figure of an anchor; and this singular exhibition, it is said, was very generally admired.

Upon reaching the southern extremity of the Mound, it will be necessary to turn aside to the east, and enter the Lawnmarket by Bank Street. Here stands the BANK OF SCOTLAND, which is considered a very elegant building,

though its back is somewhat awkwardly turned upon the New Town.

The Bank of Scotland dates its origin from the year 1695, when, by an act of Parliament, the company was constituted, and permitted to raise a joint-stock of £100,000 sterling. Its first premises were in the Parliament Square, and the company narrowly escaped a serious loss, when all that part of the town was destroyed by fire *anno* 1700. Immediately before the erection of the present elegant structure, their business was transacted in a strong old house at the bottom of a close in the Lawnmarket, which was also in danger from fire in the year 1774. The present building is completely isolated, and stands no chance of further hazard from that dreadful scourge of crowded cities. It cost £75,000, the whole or most of which was defrayed by the unclaimed property in the possession of the company. The capital of the Bank of Scotland now amounts to one million and a half.

At No. 2, Bank Street, is the office for the disposal of tickets of admission to the exhibition of the Regalia of Scotland; and if, in visiting the Castle, it be the stranger's wish to behold

these interesting relics, it will be necessary to take the preliminary measure of purchasing an order. In the immediate neighbourhood of this office, the principal street of the Old Town is entered ; and the person seeing it for the first time, is astonished at the stately and venerable appearance of this city of ages. Upon the left he sees the old CATHEDRAL OF ST. GILES, with its crown-like spire, and some modern adjacent buildings, which we shall hereafter notice. Meanwhile, as, after attaining the end of his *walk*, the stranger may more deliberately attend to our description of these objects, we shall proceed directly to the Castle, and point out the *remarkables* of the way on our return.

From the head of Bank Street, the stranger has only to walk about 200 yards to the west, when he emerges from the narrow street which forms a sort of avenue to the Castle, and finds himself upon a level esplanade, nearly 300 feet square, over which frown the terrible features of this “old grey fortress.” He passes through the sullen gate along a draw-bridge, and a roughly-paved and somewhat serpentine way,—a half-moon battery grinning over his head,—till he reaches a deeply-arched way, the

building above which we beg to point out as the state-prison of Edinburgh. Within this gloomy house were confined, so late as 1746, many a goodly lord and gentleman, and not a few ladies, whose attachment to the cause of the house of Stuart had either shown itself in open treason, or was suspected and feared. Here, also, not more than thirty years ago, the democrat Watt was confined previous to his execution. It was the first intention of the powers that were, to execute this wretched man upon the Castlehill, or esplanade, just mentioned, where part of the necessary apparatus was erected; but it being considered, that the public might think it a betrayal of fear upon their part, thus to take the protection of the Castle guns, the usual place of execution was eventually fixed upon.

About twenty yards within this arched way, which contained two portcullises, a long stair conducts the stranger towards that part of the Castle where the CROWN-ROOM is situated. It is found in a square, which serves for a military parade, and which is the most ancient part of the fort now existing. Two officials, in the dresses of the ancient Scottish yeomen of the

guard, attend to conduct the visitor to the REGALIA, which are placed in a vaulted room one story above the pavement, being that in which they have been deposited since, at least, the time of the Restoration, and where, in the year 1817, they were discovered, after having for many years been supposed to be privately removed to the Tower of London.

The Regalia are placed upon an oval table, which is completely, and securely, enclosed within a sort of iron cage, formed of upright bars, which are firmly grounded in a floor of marble. The Crown lies upon a cushion of crimson velvet, fringed with gold, and is surrounded by the Sceptre, the Sword, its Sheath, and the Treasurer's Mace. The room is fitted up with crimson hangings, tastefully disposed in the form of a tent; and the oak chest, "iron clasped and iron bound," in which the Regalia were kept, together with the linen cloth in which they were found wrapt, are also exhibited. The whole is lighted by four lamps, which cast a "dim religious light," much preferable to that of day, over these venerable memorials of Scottish independence.

The CROWN is very elegantly formed; the

under part being a golden diadem, consisting of two circles, chased and adorned with precious stones and pearls of great size. The upper circle is surmounted by crosses fleury, interchanged with fleurs-de-lis, and with small points terminated by large pearls. This was the old Crown, and the date is unknown, though the era of Bruce has been referred to with much probability. James V added two concentric arches of gold, crossing and intersecting each other above the circles, and surmounted by a ball or globe, over which rises a cross patée adorned with diamonds. The cap, or tiara, of the Crown, is of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine, and adorned with pearls; but this was only substituted by King James VII for the former cap of purple velvet, which had become much decayed during the concealment of the honours in the time of the civil war. The SCEPTRE is a slender rod of silver, thirty-two inches in length, chased, and varied in its form in a way more easily expressed in drawing than in description. It terminates with three small statues, representing the Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, and St. James, over whose heads rises a crystal globe. With this Sceptre the Lord

Chancellor of Scotland touched the acts of Parliament, in token of the royal assent. The SWORD OF STATE is very elegant both in form and in proportion. It was a present from the warlike Pope Julius II to James IV of Scotland; and having been wrought in Italy shortly after the revival of the arts, is a most beautiful specimen of sculpture. The handle is of silver, gilded, and the cross, or guard, is wreathed in imitation of two dolphins. The scabbard is adorned with filigree work of silver, representing boughs and leaves of oak with acorns; the device of Pope Julius being an oak tree fructuated.

Taking these articles in connection with the great historical events and personages that enter into the composition of their present value, it is impossible to look upon them without emotions of singular interest, while, at the same time, their essential littleness excites wonder at the mighty circumstances and destinies which have been determined by the possession, or the want of possession, of what they emblematic and represent. *For* this diadem did Bruce liberate his country: *with* it, his son nearly occasioned its ruin. It purchased for Scotland

the benefits of the mature sagacity of Robert II,—did not save Robert III from a death of grief,—procured, perhaps, the assassination of James I,—instigated James IV to successful rebellion against his father, whose violent death was expiated by his own. Its dignity was proudly increased by James V, who was yet more unfortunate, perhaps, in his end, than a long list of unfortunate predecessors. It was worn by the devoted head of Mary, who found it the occasion of woes and calamities unnumbered and unexampled. It was placed upon the infant brow of her son, to the exclusion of herself from all its glories and its advantages, but not to the conclusion of the distresses in which it had involved her. Her unfortunate grandson, for its sake, visited Scotland, and had it placed upon his head with magnificent ceremonies; but the nation, whose sovereignty it gave him, was the first to rebel against his authority, and work his destruction. The Presbyterian solemnity with which it was given to Charles II was only a preface to the disasters of Worcester; and, afterwards, it was remembered by this monarch, little to the advantage of Scotland, that it had been placed upon

his head, with conditions and restrictions which wounded at once his pride and his conscience. It was worn by no other monarch ; and the period of its disuse seems to have been the epoch from which we may reckon the happiness of our monarchs, and the revival of our national prosperity.

From the Crown-Room the stranger may easily be conducted to the room in which King JAMES THE SIXTH was born. It seems to be a part of the same building, and is entered by the next door. The visitor will be surprised to find this place now occupied as a mean tavern ; while the room, which we remember having seen in its original state, with wainscot all seamed with initials, is now renewed, and disgustingly decorated by painted devices, inscriptions, and a portrait of Queen Mary, all in a taste conformable to the degraded character which the room now bears. The room is irregular in shape, about eight feet square, lighted by one window, and forms the south-east angle of the buildings of the Castle. This was the palace of the Castle, and bears the date of 1556. Underneath the grate in the fire-place is shown a hole, which served as a communication or a

wire, whereby, says tradition, a bell was rung in a house in the Grassmarket below, to advise the Queen's Catholic friends of the birth of her son. It is also said, that he was conveyed in a basket through the postern gate of the Castle, and dropped down the rock to the west, by a string, into the hands of these Catholic protectors, who took possession of him, and attempted to educate him in their own religion. When his present Majesty visited the Castle in 1822, he desired to be conducted to this room ; and it was an interesting sight to see the greatest monarch in the world standing upon the place where, 260 years before, birth was given to an ancestor, whose existence was not only the cause of his being, but the means by which his dominions are so extensive, so prosperous, and so happy.

The square in which is situated the ancient royal palace, occupies the highest part of the rock, and that part which seems to have been fortified at the earliest period. It is reported by tradition, that the western and northern parts of the area of seven acres, now included within the walls, were not fortified in any way, except by nature, previous to the reign of

King William III, when the outer walls and batteries in these quarters were for the first time erected. By a general survey of the ground, and by inspecting the precipice to the west, which is evidently accessible, it will appear, that it must have been possible, in early times, for an enemy to reach what is now the centre of the Castle, and that he would find considerable space for his storming operations, where the Barracks, Governor's House, &c., are now situated, close under, and indeed, in contact with what must then have been the posterior defences. Yet, it must be confessed, that little danger seems to have ever been apprehended from this side ; and none of the powers which have at various times besieged the Castle, ever made it their point of bombardment or attack.

From the Half-moon Battery, in the immediate neighbourhood of the square, the stranger may command a view of almost the whole city, which can only be considered inferior to that which is presented from the Calton Hill. The broad mass of the Old Town lies directly before the eye. Upon the right is Heriot's Hospital, one of the largest and most splendid

buildings, of a considerable age, in Edinburgh. Farther to the east, is the Greyfriars Church, surrounded by its extensive cemetery ; and, at a greater distance to the south, lie many other public buildings, which we shall hereafter describe individually. Upon the other hand lies the New Town, with its handsome proportions, spreading far over the level country, and finely terminated to the east by the Calton Hill, which looks like one vast irregular building, with Nelson's Monument for a spire. Here, too, are seen to greater advantage upon the right, the diadem-like summit of Salisbury Crags, and a profile of the lion head of Arthur's Seat. No less striking is the effect of the Old Town below, which is so condensed by the fore-shortening, as to confound and bewilder the gaze, with its inextricable mingling of chimneys, gables, spires, battlements, and turrets. In this “confusion worse confounded,” the eye is only relieved by the beautiful lines of modern buildings which penetrate the general mass,—their soft outlines and white walls contrasting with the sterner proportions of the dark and war-like structures, like the fair hands of a “lady

bright," enclosed in the gauntletted grasp of her knightly lover.

It is not to be forgot, that upon these battlements stood his present Majesty, on the 22d of August 1822, when he went in procession from Holyrood House to the Castle,—one of the most gratifying, though certainly least necessary, transactions which it pleased our Monarch to engage in during the short term of his visit.

Near the same spot is the ancient well of the Castle. It is exceedingly deep, though the water is not good, and seldom used. The garrison are at present supplied with this necessary of life by a pipe from the reservoir of the city.

Oliver Cromwell besieged and took the Castle in 1650. Tradition bears, that he placed his chief battery upon the Calton Hill; and we have been informed, that there yet exist, in one of the buildings, marks of the passage of a ball, pointing out this as the direction from which it was discharged. He is also said, (though no historian of Edinburgh seems to avouch the fact,) to have erected the Half-moon Battery, which must be considered one of the most important defences of the Castle.

Tradition, whose *dicta* should never be alto-

gether despised, also reports, that there are more than one subterraneous passage between the Castle and the streets below. One, in particular, is said to have issued in some building at Livingstone's Yards, (southwards,) and to have been used during the temporary seclusion (for it could not be called siege) of the Castle in 1745. Another, of a still more important character, is still believed by the old women of Edinburgh to reach (under the High Street) between the Castle and Holyrood House. This story is, or has been, generally credited ; and we well remember having heard it repeated during our own infancy, not many years ago, by an aged gossip or nurse, in a remote country town. The story runs, that an intrepid Highland piper, having once adventured to explore it, made a pacton with the people, whose curiosity was excited by his proposal, that, if successful, he was to be properly rewarded,—and that, by playing upon his pipes under ground, he was to indicate to those in the street, the progress he made. The brave musician was, however, unfortunate ; for, after the people had followed the sound from the Castle down to the Tron Church, it suddenly

ceased, and the poor piper was never more either seen or heard of.

The Chapel of the Castle is a modern building, but has only been substituted for a former edifice, of vast and unknown antiquity, of which the stone-work of one window has been retained. The Church of the Castle was granted to the canons regular of Holyrood House, as a dependent establishment, at the erection of that abbey in the twelfth century.

Near this edifice is the Postern Gate, which its name indicates as having formerly been the limit of the Castle upon the western side, though we have never seen this important circumstance hinted at in any printed history.

Opposite to this gate is the Barrack, a large modern edifice, much at variance with the appearance of the surrounding buildings, and which undoubtedly spoils the view of the Castle from the west, where its huge commonplace bulk is most conspicuous. The Governor's House is adjacent to the north, behind which are situated a store-room and arsenal, capable of containing a vast quantity of arms and ammunition.

The stranger next passes eastward along a

fortification called Argyll's Battery, and leaves the Castle by the winding paved way by which he entered. But, before quitting its precincts, we beg to mention a celebrated national palladium, which was kept here for several centuries, till removed to London, and which must carry an interest along with it, wherever it may be seen, and when the following particulars are known respecting it.

It is probable, that *Mons Meg*, by which name this famous piece of artillery is universally known, was first the property of King James IV, who had a great taste for splendid military and naval munition, and in whose time it was customary to dignify pieces of cannon with fantastic, and we may say human, names. This piece of ordnance was thirteen feet long, about seven feet in circumference at the mouth, and twenty inches in diameter of bore. It was composed of a number of thick iron bars, which were hooped ; and the breech was much smaller than the mouth. “ In the accounts of the high-treasurer during this reign, the following curious entries are to be found, relative chiefly to *her* transportation from Edinburgh Castle to the Abbey of Holyrood, apparently on some occasion of national festivity.

- ' Item, to the pyonouris, to gang to the Castell to help with *Mons* down, Xs.
- ' Item, to the menstrallis that playit befoir *Mons* down the gait, XIVs.
- ' Item, giffen for XIII stane of irne, to mak grath to *Mons'* new cradill, and gavillokkis to ga with her, for ilk stane XXVIIIId. XXXs. IVd.
- ' Item, to VII wrichtis, for II dayis and ane half, that maid *Mons'* cradill, to ilk man on the day, XVIId.
- ' Item, for walking (*attending*) of *Mons* the XXV, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX dayis of Julij, and the gunneir of the Abbay, ilk nycht, IIIIs.
- ' Item, the last day of August, giffyn to Robyn Ker, to fee 100 warkmen to pas with *Mons*, sicklike as the laif war feit, to ilk man, VIIs. XXXli.
- ' Item, for XXIV lib. of talloun for *Mons* (*no sum.*)
- ' Item, VIII elle of claith, to be *Mons* a claith to cover her, IXs. IIIId.
- ' Item, for mair talloun to *Mons*, XXs.
- ' Item, for 200 spikin nails, to turse with *Mons*, IIIIs.

" In the festivities celebrated at Edinburgh by the Queen Dowager, Mary of Guise, on the occasion of her daughter's marriage to the Dauphin of France in 1588, Mons MEG was, of course, not allowed to remain silent or inactive. In the treasurer's accounts there is the following article.—

' By the Queenis precept and speciale com-

mand, item, 'the third day of Julij [1588] to certane pyonaris for thair lauboris in the mounting of *Mons* furth of her lair (*place of lying,*) to be schote, and for the finding and carying of hir bullet after scho wes shot, fra Weirdie Mure * to the Castell of Edinburgh," &c.

"There is a local tradition, that, along with some other artillery sent, in 1651, by the Scottish Committee of Estates, to Dunnottar Castle, which then held out against the power of Cromwell, was MONS MEG. The bed *she* is believed to have occupied during the siege is still shown upon a battery in that ancient fortress, projecting over the sea, of a size far exceeding that of the other embrasures, and from which *she* gets the credit of having dismasted an English vessel steering for the harbour of Stonehaven, at the distance of a mile and a half. These traditions, however agreeable to our national prejudices, and in harmony with the popular respect which Mons appears to have always commanded, are unhappily falsified by the official documents respecting the surrender of

* Wardie is about two miles from the Castle, near the sea.

Edinburgh Castle in December 1650, published by order of the Parliament of England. Among these is a list of the ordnance taken in the Castle on the 24th of December 1650, in which a conspicuous place is given to ‘the great iron murderer Muckle Meg.’ In another list she is denominated ‘the Great Mag.’”*

After this period of her history, we find no notice respecting “Mons” till 1682, when the Duke of York (afterwards James VII and II) visited the Castle. Upon this occasion, in firing *her* off, as a mark of honour to the royal visitor, *she* was unfortunately burst; and it does not appear that any attempt was ever afterwards made to repair her carcase. Lord Fountainhall relates the story in the following simple manner.—

“The Duke of York went frae thence (Lesly) to Holyrood House; thence went and saw Edinburgh Castle, where the great cannon, called Monns Meg, being charged, burst in her off-going, which was taken as a bad omen.”—*Chronological Notes*, 1.

* Provincial Antiquities and Picturesque Scenery of Scotland, by Sir Walter Scott, p. 21.

Mons was removed, in 1754, to London ; of which event we cannot help copying the notices given in the intelligencers of the period.—

“ On the 19th, a great gun in Edinburgh Castle, called Mons Meg, said to weigh above five tons, and to be near two feet diameter in the bore, which has been long unserviceable, was carried thence for Leith, in order to be transported to London.”—*Scots Magazine, April 1754.*

“ Mons Meg, the famous great forged cannon, which is above two feet diameter in the bore, and weighs 4000 stone, is put on board a vessel for London.”—*Gentleman’s Magazine, May 1754.*

After leaving the Castle, upon turning to the left the stranger will observe a parapet-wall, (erected 1817), for the defence of the northern Castle-Bank, which was then for the first time inclosed and ornamented. At the distance of a few yards from the wall, and immediately opposite to the extreme corner of the outer palisade of the Castle, he will perceive a block or obelisk of granite, with some unintelligible lines and figures curiously carved upon its smooth side, which, however, is no Scottish

antiquity, but supposed to be a Scandinavian one, having been brought some years ago from Denmark as ballast in a vessel belonging to Leith, and deposited in a *back court* in the Castlehill, from whence it was lately removed thither, in order to be more immediately in the public view. Between the obelisk and the walls of the Castle he will also observe a low arch-way, like the mouth of a subterraneous passage, which is popularly called the LION'S DEN, and is supposed to have been the place of confinement of some lion formerly kept for the amusement of the Scottish monarchs. At the bottom of the bank, and close under the northern precipice of the Castle, are observable the ruins of a fortification, called the WELL-HOUSE TOWER, which is supposed to have at once been the *point d'appui* of the most ancient wall of Edinburgh, and one of the exterior defences of the Castle, the garrison of which could here, by descending the rock, command a supply of spring water, without encountering much risk from their besiegers.*

* See some ingenious speculations upon this subject in the second volume of the Transactions of the Scottish An-

The drained bottom of the North Loch, which, before the formation of that temporary sheet of water,* contained the gardens of King David II, has been of late years very tastefully restored to its primitive state; and now, instead of a stagnant marsh, exhibits the captivating beauties of a pleasure-ground, which, skirting the very bottom of the Castle, sets off and contrasts finely with its grey bald walls, like the kirtle of Minerva flowing from beneath the severer graces of her breast-plate.

Proceeding towards the eastern extremity of the esplanade, the stranger will observe, a little way down the bank, a small mansion-house, constructed in a curious taste, shaded by trees, and surrounded by a garden-wall. This was the house of Allan Ramsay, the reviver of Scot-

tiquarian Society,—a work which does great credit to the literary talents as well as the antiquarian industry of its compilers.

* Whatever may be thought of the antiquity of the North Loch, it certainly did not exist previous to the first circumvallation of Edinburgh in 1460, when it must have been formed by damming at the eastern extremity, in order to save the expense of a wall upon that side of the city.

tish poetry, and author of that beautiful and matchless pastoral, "The Gentle Shepherd."—Allan Ramsay was at first a wig-maker, and latterly a bookseller, in Edinburgh; and, besides this noblest effort of his muse, published many small poems of various merit. He amassed a little fortune in his last profession; and built this house as a retreat, wherein he might spend agreeably the quiet evening of an active life. It is a striking fact, that the only two Scottish poets who ever enriched themselves by their writings, also resembled each other in their architectural tastes, when they came to build houses for their own accommodation; for, though RAMSAY GARDEN is, of course, a structure in every respect inferior to Abbotsford, it is not the less apparent, that the architecture of both the edifices is, to say the least of it, out of the common order. When the author of the Gentle Shepherd erected his house *circa* 1754, it was likened, by the wags of Edinburgh, to a *goose-pie*, which it resembled more nearly at first than now,—a succeeding proprietor having added a front, which spoiled the likeness. In showing the house (of which he is said to have been very vain) to Lord Elibank, the poet com-

plained of this to his lordship, who replied, “Indeed, Allan, when I see *you* in it, I think the wags are not far wrong !” In 1754, as the poet was making some excavations for his garden-wall, he discovered a subterranean chamber, about fourteen feet square, which was found to contain an image of white stone, with a crown on its head, supposed to be a representation of the Virgin Mary ; two brass candlesticks ; about a dozen of ancient Scottish and French coins, and some trinkets mixed with the rubbish. The house is still known by the name of the *Poet’s Nest* ; and is at present possessed by the Rev. Dr. Baird, the much respected Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

The Castlehill was, in former times, the principal place in Edinburgh appropriated to the execution of criminals, especially during the reign of James VI, when several wizards and witches were burnt upon it.

At the opening of the street called the Castlehill, and terminating the esplanade to the east, anciently stood the BARRIER-GATE of the Castle. This was merely an opening in the town-wall above mentioned, which passed across the hill at this spot, and of which a small portion is

still to be seen at the bottom of a garden behind the houses upon the southern side of the Castlehill Street. The Barrier-Gate was restored, in a temporary manner, in August 1822, in order to perfect the ceremonials of his Majesty's reception at the Castle.

In the gable of the extreme western house, upon the south side of the Castlehill Street, there is still to be seen, sticking in the wall, a cannon-ball, said to have been shot from the Castle during the cannonade of 1745. We may also mention, that if the stranger should visit the great water reservoir near this house, which is a curiosity in its way, he will see a hole in the wainscot of the room containing the cistern, which is said to have been made by a ball shot upon the same occasion. The ball, after being preserved for seventy years by the people of the water-house, was, at last, given away to the late Professor Playfair.

The Castlehill Street, along which the stranger now passes, was, in times not long bygone, considered the noblest part of Edinburgh, or *west end of the town*. Having a residence there was deemed the same as possessing a country villa; and it was the ambition

and anxious wish of many personages of great official distinction thus to procure the advantages of a rustic seclusion,—namely, retirement, salubrious air, a garden, &c., at so little distance from the haunts of business. The place, it is true, has now a mean appearance; but, nevertheless, was, in its day of prosperity, as we have said, a favourite residence of the aristocracy of Edinburgh.

From each side of the street diverge, at intervals of only a few yards, narrow lanes, or *closes*, densely and highly built with good old houses, (here called *lands*,) and usually containing considerable population. This practice, which involves many inconveniences, was the result of the original narrow limits of the city, and the impossibility of a suburb, at a time when the necessity of keeping within the walls, obliged the increasing population of the city to fill up every nook and corner of the areas which could boast the advantage of defence from “our auld enemies of England.” In this condition the city remained, without being in the least enlarged, for several centuries after being enclosed by a wall; and it was only towards the latter end of the last century, that the pro-

sperity of the city became such as to render the confinement within the narrow abodes prescribed to them, intolerable to the Scottish gentry, and to make the extension of the city over the adjacent ridges a matter of unavoidable necessity. The rapid extension which took place immediately after the entire fortress of the town was first broken up, and the present doubled population of the city, show how ripe the inhabitants must have been for that salutary and fortunate measure.

In consequence of the prosperity of the New Town, the ancient part of the city has, of course, been deserted, as a place of residence, by all who could afford finer and more commodious mansions ; and thus, many houses in the latter, formerly inhabited by the refined and the noble, are now occupied only by people of the humblest rank. Such is, indeed, the general fate of all the houses which the stranger sees in this street —especially upon the south side—and which he shall yet see in his progress through the lower parts of the Old Town. We cannot expect the stranger, who has, perhaps, only a few hours to spend in the Scottish metropolis, to descend all these closes, and express his surprise at the re-

volutions which we could point out as having taken place in their history ; but, as a specimen, perhaps, of all the rest, we beg to conduct him to only one house in this neighbourhood, which we consider particularly worthy of his attention.

At that part of the Castlehill Street, where it begins to open up into the wider expanse of the Lawnmarket, and nearly opposite to the head of the “steep-down” street called the West Bow, one of the lanes we speak of, denominated BLYTH’S CLOSE, descends from the north side of the main street, and forms a fearful and filthy avenue to the degraded palace and oratory of Mary of Lorrain, Queen Regent of Scotland at the important period of the Reformation,—the widow of James, and the mother of Mary. The various entrances to these buildings are by spiral stairs leading from the pavement of the close (about thirty yards down),—the palace being upon the west side, and the chapel upon the east. Upon the architrave of the former, the stranger may yet read, in Gothic characters, the pious inscription, “ LAUS DEO,” together with the cipher of the Queen. If the stranger should desire to prosecute farther the

somewhat perilous enterprise of exploring the intricacies of this building, he will find the remains of fonts, pilasters, and carved roofs, decorating various apartments with a ruined and haggard grace; and the contrast which he may form in his mind between the past and the present inhabitants of this once palatial abode, will scarcely fail to excite in him the most serious reflections upon the mutability of all glory or greatness connected with mortal affairs.

Emerging from the hideous *profound* of Blyth's Close, the stranger finds himself at the head of the West Bow,—a steep, narrow, and tortuous isthmus, which communicates betwixt the two great continents of the Lawnmarket and Grassmarket. The old houses composing the angle of junction between the Lawnmarket and the West Bow, are very antique, and somewhat resemble a pile of old buildings which formerly stood at the south-west end of Chancery Lane, Fleet Street, London, in some part of which dwelt that anomaly of cruelty and benevolence—old Izaak Walton.

At the south-east corner of Bank Street, and entering from the Lawnmarket, is a shop of no very remarkable appearance, bearing the pro-

fessional inscription of “David Bridges & Son, clothiers.” The stranger, whom the fame of this shop has not reached, will now be surprised when he is informed, that he could scarcely visit a more *curious* place within the limits of Edinburgh : not that it is in any way remarkable as what it appears, a mere repertory of human vestments,—*point de tout*,—but as being the daily resort, to a greater extent than any coffee-room or bookseller’s shop in town, of the most eminent men in literature, science, and the arts ! True it is, that persons of all ranks, all parties, all professions, and of every degree of pretension to intellectual merit—authors, actors, and artists—congregate daily here,—realizing, it may be said, in life, what is only to be confidently expected in the grave, a promiscuous and amicable assemblage of envied names, huddled closely together without jar or jealousy. Indeed, the various printed works of the Edinburgh literati do not stand more closely and peaceably on the shelves or counters of the booksellers, than the authors themselves stand, sit, and lounge, within the narrow walls of this singular cloth-shop.

“The cause and centre of this attraction,”

as he has been elsewhere called, is the junior Mr. David Bridges, who, without being himself either author, actor, or artist, or any thing ostensibly but a plain dealer in the outward comforts of mankind, has, in course of a few years, acquired the character, and we might almost say office, of an universal and indefeasible oracle of taste, in all matters relating to these enlightened servants of the public. He is a middle-aged and middle-sized person, with sharp, lively features,—large dark blue eyes, of most intelligent brilliancy,—and a mercurial vivacity in all his looks, motions, and sayings, which at once points him out as no common man. The artists, in especial, look up to him as a sort of powerful usher, or door-keeper, in the court of fame; and he is really known to have been the means of introducing more than one or two talented individuals into profitable notice. The truth is, that, from the enthusiasm of connoisseurship, as well as from real warmth of heart, he takes a most active and engrossing concern in every thing which has the merit of appertaining to pictures and picture makers; and having thus made himself generally serviceable to the art, and being fa-

vourably known, either as a patron or a friend, to every person connected with it, there is no man in Scotland who has more of a certain kind of influence among its professors. Mr. Bridges is far seen, too, in literary secrets, and possesses not a little influence among both authors and booksellers. Nor is it to be forgotten, that the same energetic and active principle of universal friendship and serviceableness, has made him almost equally potential in the concerns of the green-room.

All these circumstances conspire to throw an interest of no ordinary sort over "*The Corner*," (as Mr. Bridges' shop has been denominated *par excellence*,) into which it is impossible to step at any time between the hours of ten and three, and more especially during *Session-time*, without finding some illustrious lounger, or knot of loungers, or various, different, distinct, assorted knots of loungers, contented to jostle and be jostled among unrespective shop-lads, to yawn over newspapers, speculate upon the crowd passing by, and now and then exchange a word with the ever-busy, every-sprightly, ever-speaking Mr. Bridges. Even foreigners find their way to this exchange of literary talk;

and there is usually a confusion of tongues, as well as of characters and parties, within the shop at the same moment. Nor is it at all the least striking characteristic of the assemblage, that the professional, the intellectual, and the gay, are usually mixed up and grotesquely varied, with a throng of tame, common-place old cits, who come upon the account of the respectable senior member of the firm, their old trading acquaintance, and who evidently understand nothing of, or take not the least interest in, the numerous great personages with whom they are for the time brought into juxtaposition. Thus, it is not unusual to see the most opposite extremes of habit and character combined in the formation of one motley group. Upon a chair near the fire, perhaps, sits a lean and venerable personage, with spectacles on nose, spelling patiently and anxiously the news (nearly as venerable as himself) of some lethargic weekly journal,—his respectable countenance, duffle spencer, black silk stockings, and perhaps buckles, altogether indicating a worthy memorial of the decent shop-keeping population of the Lawnmarket about the middle of the last century. At his elbow may stand a

tragedian of celebrity, or a favourite comedian, reading with fearful interest the stage-censor of the morning ; and, with his high-flown mind, quite unconscious of the very existence of the sober, worthy, old burgher, whose character and ideas are in every respect so entirely the opposite and reverse of his own. Near the actor, perhaps, stands no less a personage than the last and best of Edinburgh's provosts, revolving in his mind some great civic improvement, or seeking aid from Mr. Bridges respecting the invocation of a public meeting, or looking out at the door, and surveying the innocent old ruins of the Castlehill Street with the eye of a destroyer. At another place may smatter a knot of Whig editors and other *littérateurs*, who find it impossible to come to any thing like a distinct conclusion upon some dark question in political economy. At the distance of a yard from this group, or only divided by the narrow barrier of the counter, may stand the real flesh-and-blood representatives of those far-famed idealities, Timothy Tickler, Christopher North, and Ensign O'Doherty,—perhaps joining amicably with a person whom they scarify every month, in taking off from the same web the

necessary material of some particular vestments. And the Ettrick Shepherd may come in, redolent of stots and the Grassmarket, and squeezing his friend the director-general of the fine arts with the gripe of a Tartar, proceed to ask his opinion of his last new book, and beg to be shown some of the director's new *bits*. Even the Great Unknown himself,—the greatest and the humblest of them all,—may compose a unit in this assemblage, and perhaps stands modestly near the door, either subscribing, in his goodness, for some print which Mr. Bridges takes under his special protection, or, just as probably, inspecting and ordering home an assortment of new stockings or night-caps for the more indispensable gratification of his external man :—for, as some poet hath said, that

“——lips, however blooming, must be fed ;”

so it is equally true, that men, however great or unknown, must of necessity be clothed.—All this time, at a particular part of the counter, the shopmen and clerks are busily engaged in transacting with the common people, or the literati present, sales of the ordinary and fami-

liar articles of human vesture ; while their versatile master, as the case happens, is either settling a point of costume for Mr. Allan's new picture,—inquiring, with the goodness of heart which characterises him, into the case, of some vagrant at the door, criticising the last new novel,—taking measures for the correction of some abuse in the police,—writing a critique on the play brought out last night,—or describing to a foreign teacher of languages, in an impetuous torrent of elegant French, the just and distinct proportions of a contemplated pair of trousers.

Directly opposite to Mr. Bridges' shop is a lane called Liberton's Wynd, in which exists to this day a tavern, remarkable for having been the favourite resort of Robert Burns, during the few prosperous months which he spent in Edinburgh. As it may be consistent with the wishes of many strangers, we think it necessary, at least, to point out the situation of this interesting old house of entertainment, which, we have no doubt, many will visit with the devotion of pilgrims. It is situated upon the western side of the alley, about thirty yards from the top, and is still appropriately distin-

guished by the title of "BURNS' TAVERN." The present possessors, who have succeeded, at several removes, the landlord of the poet, are extremely attentive in exhibiting to strangers the particular rooms supposed to have been most honoured by his presence,—in especial, a panelled crypt, termed *The Coffin*, which is so exceedingly small, that three persons can scarcely sit in it, and which is yet said to have entertained many a jovial little party, composed of Burns and his friends. What must add greatly to the melancholy pleasure experienced in visiting this house, is a holograph manuscript poem of the bard's own, descriptive of the old-fashioned entertainments of the house, and addressed to its *then* landlord—Johnnie Dowie—and which has been transmitted, with unfailing care, through the hands of the various successive occupants of the tavern. We have recently conversed with a gentleman, now a respectable citizen of Edinburgh, who informed us, that he was the occasion, during a convivial meeting with Burns in this tavern, of the composition of that beautiful song, "Poor-tith Cauld." Happening to sing the original verses, beginning, "I had a horse—I had nae

mair," the poet was so charmed with the air, and at the same time so shocked by the inferiority of the words, that he promised to attempt something more appropriate to the pathetic character of the melody ; and he, accordingly, produced the exquisite lyric above mentioned, which was first sung in Johnnie Dowie's tavern, and by our informant.

We have now to introduce the stranger to a suite of public buildings, a portion of which, in former times, rendered the neighbourhood of this spot by far the most august and important part of the town ; and which still, with the assistance of other modern establishments, continue to give this ancient and decayed portion of the capital a character of official dignity, which it must otherwise have long since lost. The buildings we allude to, are the County Hall, St. Giles's Church, the Parliament House, and the Royal Exchange.

The COUNTY HALL is the first of these buildings which strikes the eye of the stranger, in approaching them from the west. It stands with its front to St. Giles's on the east, its northern end towards the street, and its back turned to Liberton's Wynd. The situation is

unhappily somewhat low, and not sufficiently distinct from the old buildings in the neighbourhood: otherwise the beauty of the structure might command, perhaps, greater admiration. It is nearly a copy of the temple of Erychtheus in the Acropolis, which is considered one of the finest models of antiquity; while the principal entrance is taken from the Choragic monument of Thrasyllus. The pediment of the portico is supported by four very large fluted Ionic columns, and two similar columns ornament the end, which fronts the Lawnmarket. The building, which was finished in 1819, contains a hall, a court-room, and a committee-room for the use of the authorities connected with the county of Edinburgh; and cost £15,000. A statue of the late much respected Lord Chief-Baron Dundas, executed by Chantrey, and esteemed one of his best pieces, has lately been erected in this hall.

The CHURCH OF ST. GILES, which is rather a cluster of Churches, comes next under review. In its present state, it will be considered a coarse and ungraceful building; but we must remind our readers, that a great part of its walls were not originally intended to be seen, and

have only been exposed to view within these few years, by the demolition of a number of buildings, public and private, which had for many centuries hemmed it closely in, at least on two of its sides. Some improvements are now contemplated, which, we hope, will go far to remove the present deformities in its appearance and proportions.

The whole structure at present contains four places of worship, besides various aisles, which have at different periods served different purposes, and been used as public offices. The eastern part, or choir of the church, now called the *High Church*, contains seats for the Magistrates of the city, the Judges of the Court of Session, the Barons of Exchequer, and the Commissioner to the General Assembly. The last was honoured, in 1822, by the presence of his Majesty. The central part of the fabric, from north to south, was formerly called the *Old Church*, having probably been the original part or *nucleus* of the whole edifice. About twenty years ago, the southern aisle, which had previously been the vestry, was fitted up as a church ; while the northern part was, since that period, for some time occupied as a police-

office. This southern aisle contains the tombs of the Regent Murray and Napier of Merchiston, inventor of the logarithms; while the small vestry now attached to it, covers the sepulchre of the gallant Montrose. Adjacent to this place of worship, to the west, and occupying the south-western angle of the edifice, is the *Tolbooth Church*, so called, from its propinquity to the ancient Town-house of the city. The north-western angle contains the *New North*, *Little*, or *Haddo's Hold Church*, (for by all these names is it distinguished,) and is only remarkable for having once been the prison of a brave cavalier officer,—ancestor of the present Earl of Aberdeen,—named Sir George Gordon of Haddo. It was converted into a place of worship in 1699. Upon the outer walls of nearly the whole edifice, and occupying all the nooks formed by its buttresses, and occasioned by its cruciform shape, there was, in bygone times, plastered a series of little shops or booths, called, in the old Scottish language, *Krames*, which were removed, along with other venerable encumbrances, in 1817. A large square tower rises from the centre of the church, and is surmounted by an admirable steeple, 161 feet high, which is formed above into the shape of an im-

perial crown, (erected 1648,) and contains a set of good music-bells, which are played every lawful day between one and two o'clock.

The antiquity of St. Giles's Church is very uncertain. It appears that Edinburgh had a place of worship in 854; but no certain mention is made of that of St. Giles's till the year 1359, when David II granted to the chaplain officiating at the altar of St. Catharine's in that parish-church, the lands of Upper Merchiston. It is next noticed in the public archives in 1380, when part of the church was arched over. In 1387, a considerable addition was made to the church, namely, the aisles upon the south side. All this time it was merely a parish church, the patronage of which was vested in the bishop of Lindisfern, and of which the bounds were comprised within the original city-wall, running along the middle of the southern declivity of the High Street, from the Castle to the Netherbow, and from the said wall on the south, to the North Loch upon the opposite side. In the year 1462, the choir, or eastern extremity of the church, appears to have been built; and, four years thereafter, King James III converted the whole into a collegiate church,

with a provost, curate, sixteen prebendaries, a sacristan, bedel, minister of the choir, and four choristers, whose emoluments arose from foundations of nearly forty chaplainries and altarpieces, which the piety of various persons had, before this early period, endowed in the church. Between 1466 and the Reformation, many more of these liberal endowments took place ; and it is worthy of remark, that Walter Chapman, a merchant, the first who introduced printing into Edinburgh, founded a chaplainry, with an annuity of twenty-three merks, in 1513, six years after he had commenced business as a typographer.

At the Reformation, the treasury and trinkets of St. Giles's were appropriated by the town-council of Edinburgh ; and the statue of St. Giles himself was most disrespectfully tumbled into the North Loch, which was then the common pool for the ducking of certain classes of offenders. Partition-walls were shortly thereafter erected, so as to divide the church into separate places for preaching, besides a meeting-place for the courts of justice, a grammar-school, town-clerk's office, a prison, and a workhouse for the discovery of the frauds of weav-

ers. The latter use made of the desecrated edifice, was occasioned by the great peculations of the weavers of those days, who frequently embezzled the yarn of their employers ; which caused the magistrates to erect looms in one of the ancient chapels of St. Giles, upon which the weavers were compelled to try their materials, and exhibit the quality of the cloth produced, under the inspection of certain appointed overseers.—One of the first presbyterian ministers of St. Giles's was the celebrated John Knox.—In 1563, the magistrates, for the first time, had a seat erected for themselves in the church.—In 1585, the clock belonging to the parish of Lindores was bought for the sum of £55 Scots, and hung up in the steeple.—In 1598, the town being divided into four quarters, a kirk was appointed for every particular quarter.—“The tenth of Julii, (1598,) ane man, sume callit him a juglar, playit sic sowple tricks upon ane tow, (rope,) whilk wes festinet betwix the tope of St. Geills kirk steiple and ane stair bneath the crosse, called Josias close heid, the lyk was never scene in this countrie, as he raid down the tow, and playit sae maney

pavis on it."* In 1603, King James VI here delivered a farewell speech to his subjects, previous to departing for England. He had frequently held conferences with the people, during the earlier part of his reign, in the Church of St. Giles; and did not scruple sometimes to forego a little of his kingly dignity, by retorting upon, and disputing with, the preachers, when the privileged insolence of the early presbyterians happened to gall the royal conscience. Some time previous to his accession to the throne of Elizabeth, the king had found the four ministers of St. Giles's so powerful, when united against him, that he had decreed them to leave the parsonage-house, near the church, which had previously accommodated them all, and, for the future, to live in distant and separate quarters of the town : for he alleged, that, by living together, they did nothing but hatch conspiracies against his authority ; and he thought that, by thus disuniting them, he would dilute and dissipate the essential strength of their treason. In

* Birrel's Diary, 47.

1617, upon his return to Edinburgh, he entered the Church of St. Giles, before resting from his journey, and heard sermon preached by a divine more to his mind than his old presbyterian friends,—namely, the Archbishop of St. Andrews.—In 1643, the Solemn League and Covenant was ratified by the English commissioners in this church.

Little more intelligence of any interest can be given respecting St. Giles's, except, perhaps, that the celebrated Gawin Douglas was at one time its dean. Perhaps the personage who made the *great bargain*, in the following extract, was also an official in the Church of St. Giles.—“In the zeare of God 1533, Sir Walter Coupar, chaplaine in Edinburgh, got a pynte of vyne, a laiffe (loaf) of 36 unce vaight, a pecke of aite meill, a pynte of aill, a scheipe head, ane penny candell, and a faire woman, for ane xviii penny grotte.”* In order somewhat to palliate the scandal which may be imputed to the worthy chaplain on account of the last-mentioned article, it is necessary to hint,

* Marioreybanks' Annals, 5.

that it may not have been a *bona fide*, flesh-and-blood, “faire woman,” but some species of pastry, which might pass by that name.

Near the north-west corner of St. Giles's, and placed full in the middle of the street, formerly stood the “OLD TOLBOOTH” of Edinburgh, which the stranger may more readily know by the fictitious name of “the Heart of Mid-Lothian.” This venerable prison was of unknown antiquity ; and its earliest uses are equally unknown, though we venture it as our opinion, in opposition to that of all preceding historians, that its first purpose was religious, or connected with the neighbouring cathedral. It had been used solely as a jail since the period of the civil war ; and, even in this latter debased capacity, might be considered an interesting object, when the spectator called to mind the various celebrated criminals who had been confined within its walls. It was a narrow, oblong, tall structure, entered by a spiral staircase, contained in a turret at the corner nearest to the church. The eastern part of the fabric was of smooth hewn stone ; and the western, and rather largest half, exhibited a coarser, and perhaps more modern, style of architec-

ture. The former was devoted to the use of criminals, while the latter contained distinct apartments for debtors. At the west end was a platform for the execution of criminals, being the flat roof of some shops occupied by private citizens below ; and in the gable of the main building, which towered considerably higher than the platform, a square hole was observable, which served as a socket for the gallows-tree. Executions first took place here in 1784.

The beautiful modern building which is here observed to extend between St. Giles's Church and the County Hall, contains the Libraries of the Faculty of Advocates and of the Writers to the Signet ; and, upon passing through the narrow strait which lies between St. Giles's and the latter, we enter the Parliament Square. The beautiful old buildings, which once formed the eastern and part of the southern sides of this square, were destroyed by the great fire of Edinburgh, in November 1824 ; but St. Giles's Church still runs along the whole northern side, and the south-west angle yet contains some of the most important establishments of a public nature in Edinburgh. The ground here

is all sacred, not less on account of its having been in former times the precinct of the Scottish House of Parliament, and the constant resort and mall of all the great and good, as well as the vicious and tyrannical, of the seventeenth century, than by reason of its having been, at a still remoter period, the chief cemetery pertaining to the city. Here reposes the awful dust of John Knox, who “never feared the face of man.” Here did the citizens give a banquet, *sub Jove*, (1617,) to James VI. Here took place a thousand tumultuous assemblages, during the revolutionary period comprised between the Civil War and the Union: And here, at that death-scene of Scottish independence, did many an anxious politician wait, to hear the word pronounced, which was thought to seal the eternal ruin of his country.

The present Parliament House (for the name has never been lost) was built in 1640, at an expense of £11,000 sterling, and consisted of one large hall, (123 feet by 49,) for the meeting of the Three Estates of the Scottish Parliament, which always sat together. Since the Union, it has been occupied by the courts of justice; while a portion at the northern end of the

hall was railed off by a low partition, and contained a number of little booths and stalls, kept, in this place of public resort, by dealers in books, trinkets, and other wares, which, however, were all removed, in order to extend the accommodations of the Court of Session, about twenty years ago. Since then, too, the external part of the building has been modernized in a somewhat unfortunate style, though many tasteful and useful improvements have taken place in the internal arrangements and decorations. As the Parliament House forms by far the most interesting lounge in the Scottish capital, we shall make no apology for introducing the subject, at its proper length, in the following sketch.

It is necessary to premise, that, as the courts of law are only held during certain terms, the stranger will lose all the amusement to which we propose to introduce him, unless he is so happy as to have pitched the period of his visit during the seasons of business, which are comprised between the 12th of May and the 12th of July, and between the 12th of November and the 12th of March, with the exception of

a three-weeks vacation at the conclusion of the year. It may also be remarked, that as these seasons determine, in some measure, the movements of fashionable society in Edinburgh, and as the town then always wears the busiest and most captivating aspect, the stranger has a still more potent reason for making an arrangement to this effect. It will be scarcely necessary to explain this matter further than by saying, that the members of the College of Justice may, in general, be described as the present aristocracy or predominating class in the population of Edinburgh ; and that the cessation of their labours naturally produces a depression in the lower grades of society, similar perhaps to that which is occasioned in London by the rising of Parliament. Indeed, the time is not long past in Edinburgh, when, as we have heard, the Court of Session was so influential as to render it quite impossible for the manager of the theatre, with all his allurements, to fill the house during vacation-time ; and when the doors of this, as well as all other places of amusement, were obliged to move in close and undeviating sympathy with those of the Parliament House.

The Parliament House is entered by the principal door at the south-west angle of the square ; and, after passing a lobby, the stranger finds himself, almost ere he is aware, ushered into a spacious and lofty hall, the wide area of which seems yet crowded to excess with a confused throng of people, who seem to be very busily engaged in sauntering backwards and forwards from one extremity to the other. When this crowd is at the greatest,—usually about noon,—a person unaccustomed to the place, runs the risk of being considerably jostled, unless he either adopts the expedient of falling into the wake of some powerful string of loungers, or at once determines his motions towards some nook or side-seat, from whence he may view the interesting spectacle at a secure distance. At first, too, he is apt to be stunned by the loud monotonous *susurrus* occasioned by the innumerable groups, relieved, as it only is, by the pealing voices of the cryers, who ever and anon announce the names of the parties and counsel in the cases which are just coming into court. But after recovering his powers of observation, he certainly cannot fail to be impressed and gratified in a high degree,

by the magnificent liveliness, if we may use such an expression, of the whole scene.

Above all, in the first place, let the stranger recollect, that he now stands upon a spot consecrated by numberless historical associations of great interest. Here the first movements of the civil war took their rise, and here were, for the first time in Britain, debated those great revolutionary questions of state and church, from which we may derive the existence of modern liberty at once civil and religious. Within these walls, too, in dark times, of which we happily have no experience, were fearful tortures inflicted upon innocent men. Here took place the prostration of the learned and the noble before the feet of tyrants and their more tyrannical deputies. And here Montrose sat, with the patience of Despair, and heard a barbarous sentence pronounced by the unfeeling Loudoun. The house has also witnessed more pleasing scenes, especially when it was visited by the vice-regal grandeur of the brother of Charles II, who even attempted to enhance his exhibitions, by bringing his beautiful princess and her companions, in dresses of state, to sit beside him at the head of the commissioner's table.

And here has sat the hierarchy of Scotland,—a fine word, now strange in our ears. And here did the eloquent Belhaven and the fervent Fletcher inveigh against the measures which proposed to close the house for ever.—The same sumptuous, old, oaken roof, which witnessed all this, remains steadfast and unaltered as it was two centuries ago: but how often since then has the scene beneath it been changed and renewed, and how different are the present occupants of the room from those who formerly assembled in it! Instead of the Lord High Commissioner, or the sovereign himself, sitting near the head of the room, with “*the honours*” lying on the table before him; the peers and bishops disposed in ranges upon both hands, with the commissioners of shires and burghs occupying as large a range in the middle, altogether forming a most dignified and most imposing scene; and instead of hearing the rolls of Parliament called out, and such interesting names pronounced, as those of “His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Albany,”—“the Duke of Hamilton,”—“the Earls of Cromarty, Livingstoun, Southesk, or Monteith,”—“Sir James Graham

of Morphie, commissioner for the county of Aberdeen,"—or, "James Smollett, commissioner for the burgh of Dumbarton;" we see a present assemblage of very well dressed and honourable men, moving to and fro, without much ceremony, each seeming to have his mind occupied with his own modicum of business, instead of the grand national objects which concentrated the attention of the whole olden assemblage,—and hear the stentorian nineteenth-century voice of ———, the crier, proclaiming, perhaps, "Maister Solicitor-General—the Dean of Faculty!" or, "the Skulemaister o' Stanehaven against the Yerl o' Fife's tennants!"

If the present assemblage, however, wants the fine associations which every thing sanctified by antiquity is so apt to excite, it nevertheless produces a sensible and tangible gratification of a different sort, which, with some, will richly compensate the want of, or the incapability of appreciating, the other. We here see the most numerous possible collection of the most learned and honourable body which it is now in the power of Scotland to bring together. Men there are in this promiscuous company, whose names command respect in the most

distant ends of the earth. The most talented of our countrymen are here, whose names are now venerated and beloved, and who will be thought of, perhaps, with even a higher feeling, by the generation after the next. At the same time, how amusingly is the whole scene set off and relieved by its variety! Some tall, listless nobleman is, perhaps, elbowed by the busy little gowned figure of a macer, hurrying across to the Second Division. The solemn, profound Forsyth, with his invariable pace and unchangeable countenance, perhaps, moves alongside a young witling, just fledged in the smatter of a writer's office. Mr. Jeffrey's handsome, little figure, in its rapid evolutions, comes perhaps shock against, and is for a moment arrested by, the long, broad, stupid body of a blue-bonnetted rustic,—like a needle in the fingers of a clever tailor, suddenly obstructed and broken by some unthought-of button with which it has unhappily come in contact. Or the tall form and white head of Sir Walter Scott may be seen rocking in the distance, with his patched old gown flaunting behind him, his under lip tucked within his teeth, and the upper part of his body thrown eagerly forward, taking

long steps and long thoughts, and quite unconscious of the gaze, perhaps, of a knot of little Cockneys, male and female, who bustle after the Ariosto of the North, wondering if this *can really be* the charming man who writes the Scotch Novels.

The inanimate objects in the *Outer House*,—for so the great hall is denominated,—are not of particular interest. The southern window is of stained glass, and adorned with a splendid figure of Justice. Beneath this is a duplicate entry to two rooms lately erected for the use of two of the Lords Ordinary, who hear cases in their first stage, and prepare them for the final hearing and decision of the higher judges. Two large niches in the wall, near the principal entry to the hall, accommodate the rest of these junior judges. The whole room is seated round, and accommodated with tables; and at each extremity is a pulpit for a cryer. The walls are now perfectly bare, though we remember since they were adorned with portraits, by Kneller, of King William and Queen Mary, Queen Anne, John Duke of Argyll, and others. As a sole compensating decoration for these faded old pictures, there is now erected

near the lower end of the hall a colossal statue of Lord Melville, which towers in pale majesty above the busy living crowd, like the ghost of an antediluvian reappearing at Babel amongst the pygmy generations of the modern world.*

Before leaving the Outer House, it may be proper to mention, that here, in former times, always took place the annual civic feast, called *Drinking the King's health*,—a collation given by the magistrates to the citizens upon his Majesty's birth-day. Here also were held the musical festivals of 1815 and 1824. And here took place the grand banquet given by the magistrates to his Majesty in 1822.

At the south-east corner of the hall, is the door of a court-room, in which sits what is called the First Division of the Court of Session,—a body composed of the Lord President and four Judges. Here also sits Sir Walter Scott,

* This exquisite specimen of the talents of Chantrey, was erected a few years ago at the expense of the Faculty, who joined simultaneously in this expression of respect for the memory of Melville, who, it must be remembered, trod the boards of the Parliament House for twenty years previous to the commencement of his splendid political career.

who is one of the principal clerks of this court. The bench is at present occupied by the Lord President Hope ; at whose right hand sit Lord Hermand and Lord Balgray ; while Lord Craigie and Lord Gillies fill the corresponding chairs upon the left. Behind the chair of the Lord President, there is a statue, also by Chantrey, of Lord President Blair, son of the author of “The Grave,” who was the first that held this high office after the alteration of the court into two Divisions in 1808.

The Second Division of the court, which is equal in power, and similar in every respect to the First, meets in a room upon the opposite side of the great hall. It is headed by the Lord Justice-Clerk, (Boyle,) a cadet of the noble family of Glasgow, who thus unites his office as the chief criminal judge, with that of presiding over one department of the civil court. Upon his right hand sit Lords Glenlee and Robertson : and upon his left, Lords Pittilly and Alloway. Behind this bench is a beautiful statue, by Roubilliac, of Lord President Forbes, erected in 1752.

The Court of Session was established in its present form in 1532 ; and is supposed to have

been formed upon the model of the French Parliaments. The Court was at first composed of fifteen judges, whereof there were seven churchmen, and seven laymen, besides a president, who was always a churchman. Besides these, the Lord Chancellor had a right to vote ; and the king might also appoint three or four of his courtiers to be *extraordinary lords*, as they were styled, with a power to take their seats on the bench and vote when they thought proper. Churchmen ceased to form any part of the Court of Session in the reign of James VI ; but the latter very objectionable part of the system was only abolished after the accession of the house of Hanover. Previous to 1808, fourteen of the judges sat upon one bench, while the duties of Lord Ordinary were alternately discharged by one out of the whole body, by weekly rotation. The court was then divided, for the more convenient dispatch of business, into two tribunals, each having attached to it two Lords Ordinary, who are the judges of latest admission ; there being likewise what is called an Ordinary on the Bills, whose duty it is to receive petitions from inferior courts, and to grant bills of advocation and

suspension. Five of the Lords of the civil court act also as Lords of Justiciary, for which they receive an additional salary. Moreover, besides their power as the heads of the civil judicature, the Court of Session possesses a criminal jurisdiction, which they can put in force in particular cases, and by which they have been known to award such punishments as whipping, pillory, and perpetual banishment.

The ADVOCATES, or barristers, from whose body the judges are appointed, compose a very numerous and important class. They will be distinguishable by the stranger in court, by their black gowns, and the curled and powdered wigs, to which a great portion of those in active practice still adhere. These gentlemen prepare all written pleadings, or, at least, are understood to do so, as every paper, whether composed by themselves or by inferior practitioners, must, at least, be sanctioned by their signature. They also give opinions upon written statements of cases, presented to them by the agents, both in their earlier and latter stages; and they are sometimes employed as arbiters, in deciding such cases as the parties may join in desiring to withhold from the court. They alone have the

right of intercourse with the judges, whether by written or *vive voce* discussion ; and it may be said that they occupy the most advanced rank in the grand battle-array of a process, the other practitioners being only the seconds, prompters, or esquires, to these chief men-at-arms.

Though the advocates compose a very numerous body, it is only a small proportion of the whole that are ever actively or fully employed as lawyers ; and for this several reasons may be assigned, as, that many gentlemen of fortune study and pass as advocates, without any view to business, but merely for the sake of the enviable title and character which they acquire as members of so respected a body. Of this the result is, that nowhere in the world is the name of a lawyer so much respected as in Scotland. Other members of the Faculty are prevented from engaging in business by disinclination, literary employment, and independence arising from the possession of offices. Wherefore, the great burden of general business may be described as operating only a few, whose activity is stimulated by ambition or necessity.— It may also be remarked, that, though not a

few of the most distinguished men at present in practice are famed as Whigs, the majority of the Faculty are and ever have been the reverse ; and for this two reasons may be assigned, namely, that the greater part are aristocratic both by birth and education, and that government has the patronage of nearly an hundred good offices, which none but barristers can enjoy. In order, however, to show how incapable is this honoured body of being greatly moved by meaner considerations, we need only remind the reader, that during the early part of the last century, by far the greater portion of them were avowed Jacobites !

THE WRITERS OR CLERKS TO HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET compose a numerous, active, and honourable class, only inferior to the Faculty of Advocates. They acquire their name from the privilege, only vested in them, of signing writs of summons and arrestment, which are expedited through their hands from the signet of the king, who, in the Scottish supreme courts, is supposed to be the chief moving cause and instigator of all the proceedings. The Writers to the Signet, besides being the chief attorneys before the court, also act as agents, or *doers*, as

they were formerly styled, for private persons, and are the principal conveyancers employed in Scotland. Similar to them in every respect, excepting in the privilege of the signet, is the society of SOLICITORS before the SUPREME COURTS,—a very thriving and respectable body, of old standing, but only recently incorporated. Besides these, the first clerks of advocates have a right, after undergoing the usual examinations, to practise as agents before the Supreme Courts.

The judges of the Courts of Session, Justiciary, and Exchequer, (which last is the revenue-court of Scotland,) with the advocates, writers to the signet, solicitors, first clerks of advocates, clerks of the court, and attorneys in the Exchequer, form what is called the College of Justice, of which the Lords of Council and Session have the title of *senators*, and all the members of which enjoy an immunity from burghal taxation.

Leaving the Parliament House, the object of curiosity next in succession is the ADVOCATES' LIBRARY, which is entered by a door at the north-west angle of the Parliament Square.— It consists in two grand departments, whereof

the oldest part is contained in the apartments, nine in number, under the Parliament House, to which there is here access by a broad descending stair. In the remotest of these apartments usually sits the keeper of the library, the successor, in this office, of men no less distinguished than Thomas Ruddiman and David Hume, and who is himself favourably known to the public, as author of the Lives of Scottish Poets and of Buchanan, besides a work upon English Compositions, the popularity of which is the best test of its usefulness and merit. Besides this gentleman, there are several assistant librarians, whose kindness to strangers deserves public acknowledgment in a work of this nature. The Library contains many valuable manuscripts, and other articles of *virtú*; but, of course, it is only a selection of the most curious which can be conveniently submitted to the eyes of strangers. We may particularize, among other things, a manuscript Bible of St. Jerome's translation, believed to have been written in the eleventh century, and which is known to have been used as the conventional copy of the Scriptures in the abbey of Dunfermline;—a complete

copy, in two volumes, of the first Bible printed (by Faust and Guttenberg);—a set of the Gospels, written in the Tumal language, upon dried weeds or leaves, and arranged in a case;—the original Solemn League and Covenant, drawn out in 1580, and bearing a beautiful autograph signature of James VI, besides those of many of his courtiers;—six distinct manuscript copies of the Covenant of 1638, bearing the original signatures of all the eminent men of that time, the name of Montrose appearing conspicuous in all, with those of Argyll, Loudoun, Lenox, Balmerino, &c. and one of them being beautifully written and illuminated, with spaces round the border, for the signatures of the commissioners of counties and burghs;—some letters of Marie;—a collection of coins and medals;—the Wodrow MSS.; a mummy, presented by the Earl of Morton in 1748;—a valuable collection of the chartularies of various religious houses;—and a few ancient manuscripts of the Classics. To this enumeration may be added, the splendid collection of letters and state-papers by Sir James Balfour, Lord Lyon King at Arms to Charles I, whose own “Annales of Scotland” were lately pub-

lished, in a very handsome and correct style, from the MSS. (also preserved here,) by one of the assistant librarians. This collection, which was purchased by the Faculty, at the recommendation of the Lords of Session, in 1698, is comprised in a numerous assortment of vellum-bound folios, which are kept, with the rest of the manuscripts, in a fire-proof room. The state-papers chiefly refer to the period of the civil war; and the letters are principally by Prince Henry, King Charles, their mother, as also their sister, the ancestress of the present royal family, who writes a most beautiful hand, in French and Italian.* Prince Henry also writes a fine hand, and, occasionally, has recourse to verse in the expression of his sentiments. Queen Anne writes with that *espiéglerie* and air of intrigue, for which her character

* When this princess was born, in 1596, the magistrates of Edinburgh, who were honoured by an invitation to the baptism, bound themselves and their successors to pay to her, upon her marriage-day, the sum of ten thousand merks Scots; which they increased, at the occasion of her marriage to the Elector-Palatine, to the sum of fifteen thousand,—equal to £830 sterling.

is said to have been so remarkable, though her expressions of affection to King James are such as justify Mr. D'Israeli's ingenious conclusions respecting their conjugal happiness.

The *upper room* of the library is quite distinct from these lower regions, and extends along the range of building which we pointed out, at page 80, as forming the southern side of the square composed by the County Hall and St. Giles's. Here every thing is upon a scale of magnificence very different from the old-fashioned plainness of the more ancient part, which bears the same relation to this, as the homely lawyer, perhaps, of the old school, in his full snuff-brown suit and cocked hat, would bear in respect to the dashing young Prince's Street barristers of the present day. At the top of a fine staircase there is a spacious lobby, adorned with portraits of eminent Scottish lawyers. The first upon the left hand is President Dundas, brother of the late Lord Melville ; next to which is a splendid portrait of Lord Mansfield in his state-robes ; and next again a good old picture of Sir George Lockhart, President of the Court of Session at the Revolution, who was assassinated at the head of the Old Bank

Close, Lawnmarket, by an insane litigant, who conceived himself injured by a decision pronounced by this judge. Over the door hangs a half-length painting of Sir George Mackenzie, the illustrious founder of the library, whose memory, whatever respect it may command from the learned, is still remembered with execrations by the Scottish peasantry, on account of his share in the religious persecutions of the second Charles's time. In the central compartment, and next to Sir George, is a beautiful portrait of Lord President Forbes, whose services, upon the occasion of the rebellion in 1745, proved so useful in the cause of government, and who was perhaps the most virtuous, and certainly one of the most gifted, public men of his time. The other portraits in succession are of Lord Newhall, Lord Kilkerran, Sir Thomas Craig, Archbishop Spottiswood, and, nearest to the top of the stair, Lord Justice-Clerk Alva, who, by the bye, may be pointed out as a complete specimen of the rosy-featured, claret-drinking, old lawyers of the last century.

The splendid room, which the stranger now enters, is 140 feet long, by 42 wide, with an

elliptical arched ceiling, very richly pannelled, and supported by twenty-four fluted columns of the Corinthian order. Between the columns upon the south side there are windows ; and the room is further lighted by a large cupola in the centre of the ceiling. The books are arranged in presses between and behind the pillars, and a gallery runs along the whole, at the height of twenty feet. The floor is of oak, covered with a rich carpet ; and all the furniture is of the most splendid description. The whole cost of the room is said to have amounted to nearly £12,000.

The Faculty of Advocates appear, from their minutes, to have first formed the plan of a library in 1680, when it was proposed by Sir George Mackenzie to apply the money arising from the fines of recusant members to this useful purpose. Nothing was done, however, till 1682, when Sir George, being Dean of Faculty, found means to induce his brethren to agree to the measure ; which, accordingly, was then carried into effect. The Faculty applied to the City of Edinburgh for leave to occupy the low room of the Parliament House as their *bibliotheq*,—for so it was then termed ; but this

being refused, it was resolved to provide a private house for the purpose. They, therefore, took a nineteen years' lease of a house in the Parliament Square, of three small rooms, for which they were to pay a yearly rent of £20 sterling ; and they forthwith advertised, that they were inclined to purchase such “ lawyer books and raire books ” as any person might be inclined to sell. In 1695, their stock received a considerable accession from William, first Duke of Queensberry, (by the bye, another persecutor,) who gave them the whole library of his deceased son, Lord George Douglas. In 1700, when a great fire destroyed nearly the whole of this quarter of the town, the library was *burnt out* ; and it was only owing to the exertions of Mr. John Stevenson, advocate, the keeper, that any part of the books were saved. Many of them were lost, and not a few damaged, upon this disastrous occasion ; and they seem to have been kept for a twelvemonth after in the same temporary place to which they were removed at the fire. In 1701, the magistrates at length consented to let the Faculty have the use of the low room under the Parliament House,

though, as we have heard, not without reserving to themselves a right of searching the premises when they pleased, in case of another gunpowder plot,—so fresh does that dreadful affair appear to have been in the recollection of people in authority, at even the cool distance of a century! Since that period, the library has progressively increased till the present day, when it may be confidently stated, that the number of printed volumes exceeds 100,000. By the copyright act of Queen-Anne, the library is entitled to a free copy of every new publication; and the curators scarcely ever spend less than £1000 a-year in purchases. The expenses of the establishment are defrayed by a portion of the entry-money paid by every new advocate; which, with other sources of income, altogether amounts to an yearly average revenue of about £2500. A catalogue of the library was first prepared and printed, in 1742, by Thomas Ruddiman, and his assistant, Walter Goodall, author of the Life of Queen Mary; and this was improved and reprinted, in 1776, under the auspices of Mr. Alexander Brown, who was keeper when the rooms were

visited by Dr. Johnson.* The books are lent out, upon receipts, to advocates alone, who have it in their power to oblige their friends with the use of them; so that the establishment may be considered as rather of a public or national, than of a private and exclusive nature.

Underneath the upper room of the Advocates' Library is that of the Writers to the Signet, which was established about the middle of the last century, and has recently been much increased by a purchase from its great predecessor. It is considered particularly rich in the department of British history and topography. The room is fitted up in a style almost equally sumptuous with that above stairs; and the present librarian is Mr. Macvey Napier, the able editor of the Supplement to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The PARLIAMENT SQUARE, of which the stranger will at present scarcely discern so much as the limits, on account of the ruins of the great fire of 1824, till lately contained an eques-

* See Boswell's *Tour to the Hebrides*.

trian statue, in a Roman dress, of Charles II, which, previous to the erection of the New Town, was one of the greatest *lions* in Edinburgh, and really formed a beautiful and most appropriate ornament to this part of the town. All the people of the country, who know anything of the metropolis whatever, have heard of King Charles' statue ; and many a traditional recollection is handed down respecting it, at the firesides of the peasantry, derived, perhaps, from some ancestor who visited the town, and stared at it, in bygone days. It was believed of this statue, that the king pointed his truncheon at the church, while his face was turned towards Rome,—an attitude of great significance. There was also a tradition among the Edinburgh boys of the last century, that the artist who founded it hanged himself, in consequence of having discovered a trifling blunder in his work. The statue was erected in 1685, about two months after the death of the king, at an expense of £1000 sterling. It was composed of lead, and not bronzed ; but, about sixty years ago, a Lord Provost, by way of improving its appearance, had it all painted over anew, of a pale colour. About the year 1817,

it was altered, much for the better, into a dark bronze hue. It used, in former times, to be fancifully and tastefully decorated, upon the reigning king's birth-day, with flowers, and a royal crown, by the boys of Heriot's Hospital and the apprentices of the numerous goldsmiths of the Parliament Square. But this practice was, at length, prohibited, on account of the injuries which the statue was supposed to have sustained from the somewhat rough treatment of the boys. In September 1824, it was entirely taken down, in order to undergo some repairs ; and it is at present undecided by the magistrates where or when it is to be re-erected.

Passing from the Parliament Square by the north-east entry, the stranger again finds himself in the High Street, and exactly in front of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, a large and not inelegant building, used chiefly for municipal purposes, and which is remarkable for having been the first of the series of new fabrics and improvements, which has, almost within the recollection of the present generation, raised Edinburgh from the degraded character of a narrow, filthy, provincial town, to that of a splendid

modern capital. It was founded in 1753, and completed in 1761, at an expense of £31,000.

In consequence of the erection of the Exchange, the Cross, an old curious structure, which stood in the centre of the street, nearly opposite, marking the spot where the merchants of Edinburgh had congregated since time immemorial, was demolished by order of the magistrates. But, as if in resentment of the Gothic barbarity of this measure, the merchants still adhere to the site of the Cross, (which is marked by a radiated pavement,) and resist all the attempts which have ever been made to cause them to frequent the Exchange. The spot formerly occupied by the Cross is worthy of the attention of strangers, for there took place the strange fatal annunciation, (described in Marmion,) before the battle of Flodden,—there, were many celebrated criminals executed,—and there, was Prince Charles-Edward proclaimed, in 1745. It was an octagonal structure, with a platform, from the centre of which sprang a tall pillar, surmounted with an unicorn holding a spear. The eight corners of the lower structure were adorned with strange carved heads in stone, four of which are now preserved

at Abbotsford, the seat of Sir Walter Scott.—The pillar, which was broken in the course of being taken down, still exists in the policy of Drum, a seat about four miles south from Edinburgh, the property of Gilbert Innes of Stow, Esq. ; and we rejoice to understand, that it is in contemplation, by the present magistracy, to collect and restore the *disjecta membra* of this venerable edifice to the spot which they occupied in the High Street of Edinburgh during so many centuries.

Adjacent to the north side of St. Giles's, and encumbering the street, formerly stood a venerable line of stone edifices termed the Luckenbooths, said to have been, in former times, the residence of the religious dignitaries of St. Giles'. In the east end, which reached to the same line with the east end of the church, there had been from time immemorial a bookseller's shop, occupied lastly by the late well-known Mr. Creech, author of a volume entitled "Edinburgh Fugitive Pieces." In the second story, and directly over this shop, which fronted down the High Street, was the first circulating library in Edinburgh established, in 1725, by Allan Ramsay, the Scottish poet, who was succeeded

in the business and premises by another eminent man, Mr. James Sibbald, editor of the “ Chronicle of Scottish Poetry.”

Near the site of the Cross, in the *Old Fish-market Close*, is the POLICE OFFICE, a large building, converted to that useful purpose in 1823. It was formerly occupied by the Royal Bank of Scotland, which was removed in 1753 from the narrow premises it formerly possessed in the Ship Tavern Close, to this house, then built on purpose for its accommodation. The expense of the late alterations and additions, by which the premises were adapted to their present use, was £6000.

A little eastward from the Cross, and upon the same side of the causeway, stood, till within the last forty years, the old TOWN-GUARD HOUSE of Edinburgh. It was a long, low, dark building, rising within the area of the street; and having a cellar underneath, denominated the *Black Hole*, which formerly used to be the terror of all the evil-doers in the town. This was the peculiar and original citadel of the Town-Guard,—an old-fashioned and now extinct military body of police, whose connection with the tale entitled “ the Heart of Mid-Lo-

thian," must have rendered them interesting to strangers.

Passing farther down the High Street, of which the breadth, and the stupendous height of the houses, commanded the reluctant admiration of even Dr. Johnson, the next object in succession is the TRON CHURCH. This building, of which only the front is old, was erected in the time of the civil war, and finished at a great expense of both time and money. Its steeple was destroyed by fire in November 1824. It was formerly hemmed in with houses on both sides; but, in 1788, when the street was opened up for the erection of the South Bridge, it was isolated, and almost entirely rebuilt as it now appears.

The stranger must here be made aware, that the HIGH STREET formerly excited greater admiration than it now does, with all its renovations and improvements. From the Church of St. Giles, where it was partially closed by the Luckenbooths, to the lower obstruction at the Netherbow, this spacious and lofty street was quite entire, without an opening whereby its aspect of perfect magnificence could be broken or diminished. This sublimity, how-

ever, was attended with the inconvenience of being almost inaccessible, and must now be considered as sacrificed to great advantage, in the openings formed at the centre, for the accesses on both sides, by bridges communicating with the two lateral ridges of the New Town and South Side, already mentioned.

By this time the stranger will probably be casting his thoughts *dinner-wards*; and it may be advisable to conduct him to the repose of his hotel by the way of the North Bridge, with a short notice of which we shall terminate this walk.

The NORTH BRIDGE was founded, in 1763, by Provost George Drummond, a patriotic magistrate, and a man of comprehensive and prospective genius, with whom the modern improvements of Edinburgh solely originated. It was finished in the year 1769, and then became a thoroughfare. But, owing to a fatal error in the construction, it had not been long used till an arch at the south end fell with a tremendous crash, and buried several people in the ruins. This dreadful event happened upon the 15th of August 1769, about eight o'clock in the evening, and the noise was such as to

alarm the whole city. It providentially happened, that a vast number of people, who had been that evening attending a field-preaching at the north end of the bridge, were just past, as otherwise the accident would have been inconceivably more fatal. When it was understood in the town that the bridge had fallen, people of all ranks ran to see if any of their relations were involved in the destruction. Three persons only were killed, one of them a lady, whose watch was found attached to her side, and still in motion. We have also been informed by tradition, that the other two unfortunate persons were the bride and bridegroom of a marriage-party, who had been taking a walk along the fields now covered by the New Town. There is still a lurking superstitious prejudice against the North Bridge in the minds of the Edinburgh vulgar; and we have heard boys tell, that it was predicted to fall yet once again.

Underneath, and upon the west side of the North Bridge, is the FRUIT AND VEGETABLES MARKET; and, embosomed in the adjacent declivity of the Old Town, are situated, upon various level areas, the principal MARKETS OF

FLESH, FISH, &c., which may here be seen from the parapet. The western side of the bridge, at the northern extremity, is lined with a tall and beautiful range of edifices of modern erection. To the east of the bridge lies the old Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, still popularly termed the *Physic Gardens*, though now only a nursery. This is skirted on the north side by an ORPHAN HOSPITAL, with a spire, and a mean-looking place of worship, called LADY GLENORCHY'S CHAPEL. At the extremity of this garden stands a Gothic edifice, now called the COLLEGE KIRK, but which was originally a collegiate church, dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity, and founded by the consort of James II, in 1452. Adjoining to the south, is an hospital for aged people, built in the reign of James VI, and supported by the funds which originally belonged to the College Kirk. These buildings are situated in a mean part of the city, and cannot further interest the stranger. From this side of the North Bridge, a very fine view is obtained of Musselburgh Bay and the long headlands of East-Lothian, with North-Berwick Law, Gosford House, and other objects in the distance.

THE COURT END OF THE TOWN.

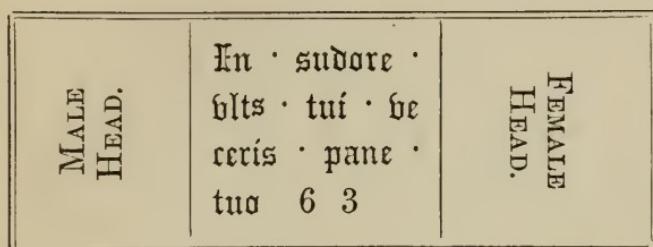
THE COURT END OF THE TOWN.

STARTING from the Register House, and retracing our steps along the North Bridge, we regain that spot in the High Street which we left at the end of the preceding walk. Below this point the street begins to present a meander appearance, and speedily becomes much narrower. The house which projects into the street, at the place where it is suddenly contracted, may be considered an object of no little curiosity, as having been the residence of the celebrated John Knox. It was granted to him free of rent by the magistrates, short while after the Reformation, when he officiated as a preacher in the Church of St. Giles ; and he is said to have occasionally, by way of supererogatory duty, held forth to the people in the

street, from a projecting window, still pointed out, in the front of the building. A small effigy of the Reformer in his canonicals, and in a preaching attitude, by which he is represented pointing to the name of the Deity carved in three languages upon a small stone, appears to have been stuck upon the corner of the house at some period subsequent to his residence here. This venerable memorial, a barber, who lives in his hall below, has been in the habit, for some years past, of daubing piously over, and decorating with evergreens, upon the anniversary of Knox's birth-day,—to the no small indignation, we understand, of a good Catholic who occupies the Reformer's study and other apartments in the flat above, and who of course holds the memory and name of "johanne knokkis" in utter abomination.

In the front wall of the house opposite to that of John Knox, are two heads in *alto reliefo* and *profile*, supposed to be of Roman sculpture, and to represent the Roman Emperor Severus and his consort Julia. Between the heads, a tablet of stone, with an inscription, has been interposed by some modern, who must have believed them to represent our first

parents. The following is, as nearly as we can give in print, a representation of the whole.*—



The street for fifty yards below this house is designated the NETHERBOW; and here stood the famous port or gate, which Queen Caroline proposed to take away, upon the mysterious murder of Porteous, and by which the rebels rushed into the city in 1745. The Port was a fine building, with a spire. It was substituted in the reign of James VI for an older building,

* All the accounts of this curiosity already before the public appear to be exceedingly absurd and incorrect. Mr. Maitland (History of Edinburgh, p. 169) relates a tradition which existed in his time, (1753,) that the heads had been removed from a house on the opposite side of the street; and because the shop underneath the sculpture was then occupied by a baker, he supposes that they “had been put up by one of that profession, (observe that this is a century and a half after !) who, taking them to be the

which stood a little farther up the street ; and was demolished in 1764, in order to provide a more free access to the city.

At this point two lanes branch off from the main street. That to the north is called LEITH WYND, having been the former road to the sea-port of Edinburgh. That to the south is denominated ST. MARY'S WYND, on account of its vicinity to a religious house dedicated to that saint, and has been, for many years, the *Rag Fair* of Edinburgh.

The Netherbow Port having been the boundary of the liberties of Edinburgh, the street which continues the same line eastwards, is called the CANONGATE. This originally formed a distinct burgh, of which the Earl of Rox-

heads of Adam and Eve, added the above inscription, in some measure alluding to his trade." The absurdity of this conjecture requires no exposure ; yet it has been implicitly copied into each and every one of the successive histories and descriptions of the city published since the appearance of Maitland's original work,—as well as a glaring error in his copy of the inscription, which interprets the word *tuo* as *ano* or *anno*, in reference to the figures, which are supposed to signify the date 1603.

N.B. The word "tuo" is not found in the Vulgate.

burgh was superior ; though, for the last two centuries, it has been subject to the jurisdiction of the magistrates of the city. The Canongate was at first the *harbergeire* or appendage of the Abbey of Holyrood ; and from a humble hamlet, such as was usually collected in the neighbourhood of all important monasteries, became a place of consideration when the Abbey was extended into the consequential character of a royal palace. As it was for several centuries a city of which the population was partly composed of religious dignitaries and the gay attendants of the court, the houses were in general good, and the society dignified. But, at the Reformation, it first lost its religious inhabitants ; and, at the Union, it lost its courtiers ; and, since then, a fate of ruin and degradation has overtaken all its stately hotels. In later times the Canongate has lost even the consequence which it derived from being the chief entry into the city from the east, by the formation of the grand new approach by the Calton Hill ; and, altogether, the scathed broken fronts of the ancient residences of the nobility now supply a melancholy subject of contemplation to the stranger

who approaches, by this most appropriate of all possible ways, the deserted abode of Scottish royalty—

“Seeming like one who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled, whose garland’s dead,
And all but he departed.”

About two hundred yards eastward from the Netherbow, and directly opposite to the head of New Street, which there branches off from the Canongate to the left, is an alley, now designated the *Auld Play-house Close*, at the bottom of which stood the house which served Edinburgh as a theatre previous to the erection of the present edifice in 1768. To this obscure retreat the liberal part of the gentry of Edinburgh, and the most degraded part of the common people, (for of these classes were the play-goers of Edinburgh then composed,) resorted to see such stars as Digges, Ward, and Bellamy ; and many a night, as gossips tell, has this mean alley been crowded with sedans, containing the most brilliant toasts who flourished in Edinburgh at the middle of the last century. We have heard a laughable anecdote re-

lated of the destruction of this house, which serves to illustrate the popular feeling respecting the stage in Scotland at that time, and must amuse all classes of our readers. The prejudice against theatrical amusements amounted in the minds of the vulgar to absolute superstition ; and we cannot wonder at the persecution which Home met with from the clergy, when it is understood that the devil was believed to be in league with the players, and that the simplest stage-tricks were attributed to supernatural agency. This absurd notion was so prevalent and so strongly rooted in the public mind, that it at last caused the destruction of the Canongate play-house. Upon one occasion, when the manager broke faith with the public, by substituting the tragedy of Hamlet for a play that had been announced in the bills, the audience expressed their disapprobation and horror at so profane a play by the most outrageous declamations ; and being shortly joined by the disaffected people out of doors, from less to more, proceeded at length to set fire to the house. To protect the peace of the city, the town-guard were called out, and marched to the spot ; but though these veterans had found

no qualms in facing the French at Blenheim and Dettingen, they had not courage sufficient to support them in an attack upon the frontiers of the Evil One. When ordered, therefore, by their commander to advance into the house and across the stage, the poor fellows fairly stopped short amidst the scenes, the glaring colours of which at once surprized and terrified them. Indignant at this pusillanimity, the captain seized a musket, and, placing himself in the attitude of a determined leader, called out, “Follow me, my lads!” But just at the moment that he was going to rush across the stage, and attack the rioters, he happened to tread upon a trap-door, (which had been left ajar, we suppose, for the ghost, or perhaps for Ophelia’s grave,) and in a twinkling vanished from the sight of his men, who instantly retreated, and left the house to the destruction which they had been called upon to prevent. It is further said, that when their honoured captain reappeared, the guard, who had given him up for lost, received him in the quality of a ghost, and could scarcely be undeceived even by his cursing them in good Gaelic for a parcel of cowardly scoundrels.

At the distance of a quarter a mile from the Netherbow, and upon the north side of the street, stands the TOLBOOTH, containing at once the *Court-Room* and *Jail* of the CANONGATE,—a well-built edifice of stone, of the time of King James VI. Upon one part of the jail, immediately over an archway, is this significant inscription—“Patriæ et Posteris, 1591 ;” and upon a more conspicuous part of the edifice, there is a niche or compartment, wherein are painted the arms of Canongate, with the motto, “Sic itur ad astra,” which never fails to impress strangers with an idea that the people of this ancient burgh esteem the prison as the way to heaven.*

In the immediate neighbourhood of the Tolbooth stands the CANONGATE CHURCH. This place of worship, which was formerly considered a handsome building, was built in the time of James VII, in conformity to whose taste or prejudice it assumed the figure of a cross.

* Over these is inscribed in gilt letters the following legend.—“J. R. 6. Justitia et pietas validæ sunt principes arcæ.”

There is a cemetery around the church, remarkable for the number of celebrated and ingenious men who repose within its precincts. In particular, we may mention Dr. Adam Smith, author of the “Wealth of Nations,”—Robert Fergusson, the unfortunate youthful poet, over whose remains his more illustrious successor and (we may almost say) disciple, Robert Burns, piously erected a monument,—Provost Drummond, already mentioned,—Count Cromarty, the last of that noble Scottish family, who was attainted for his concern in the rebellion of 1745,—some distinguished Italian musicians, particularised, with melancholy recollections, by the late Mr. Alexander Campbell, in his “Journey through Scotland,”—who was himself interred here, May 1824.

About an hundred and twenty yards below the Canongate Church, and bearing the number 119, is a lane called PANMURE CLOSE, at the bottom of which stands a mansion-house, once the residence of the Earl of Panmure, who was attainted in 1715. In one part of this house DR. ADAM SMITH lived for a considerable time. It was not here, however, that he wrote his great political work. This he is said

to have done in his native town of Kirkaldy, in Fife, where the house which he occupied is still pointed out. We have heard that, not long ago, the modern proprietor of that house exhibited to strangers a particular part of the wall of a room, over a fire-place, which the Doctor was said to have worn quite bare of paint, by the oscillations of his wigged head, as he stood cogitating there with his back to the fire, during the composition of his elaborate work.

At a little distance farther down, upon the south side of the street, stands QUEENSBERRY HOUSE, a large dull edifice, formerly the residence of the Dukes of Queensberry.

At the bottom of the Canongate, the stranger, by stepping over a strand, which there crosses the street, enters the sacred territory of Holyrood, which affords a protection to debtors, many of whom reside within its limits, secure from the gripe of the law. A few yards farther on, he stands in front of the PALACE OF HOLYROOD HOUSE.

Of this edifice, as we have stated, the north-west portion alone is ancient. All the rest was built in the reign of Charles II, after the plan

of Sir William Bruce of Kinross, by Robert Mylne, the king's mason ; and the work, though in the French taste of Louis XIV's time, does credit both to the architect and the builder.—It consists in a quadrangle, built round a central court, surrounded with piazzas. The front is very handsome. It is two stories high, and flat in the roof, closing the inner-court as with a screen, and giving access to it under a handsome cupola, executed in stonework. At each angle of the front, the building projects and rises above the line, being decorated with turrets at the angles. The other three sides of the palace are three stories high,—whereof that to the east is ornamented with ranges of handsome pilasters ; and the south side is at present in the progress of being rebuilt in a style perfectly uniform.

The CHAPEL of HOLYROOD, adjoining to the north-east corner of the Palace, is the only remaining part of the monastic establishment here founded by David I, in 1128 ; but which cannot itself boast of this high antiquity. The legend connected with the foundation is well-known, and its memory is preserved in the armorial bearings of the Canongate to this day.

The king, it seems, as he was hunting, upon Holyrood-day, in the forest of Drumselch, now Drumsheuch, was attacked by a stag which had been brought to bay. He was thrown on the ground, and in danger of perishing, when a *cross* was suddenly and miraculously interposed between the king and the incensed animal, at the sight of which the stag fled in dismay.—The cross, of which the substance could not be ascertained, remained on the place, and was regarded, of course, with the highest veneration. The night succeeding this event, the king, as he slept in his palace at Edinburgh Castle,*

* We neglected to mention at the proper place, (p. 52,) that while the east end of the square in Edinburgh Castle was the palace, the south side contained the Parliament House, and the north side the ancient chapel of Queen Margaret, consort of Malcolm Canmore. From the buildings in this part of the castle, the Scottish king and his court are said to have beheld the tournaments which, in remote times, occasionally took place in the plain below the rock on the south side. From the charter granted by David I to the monastery of Holyrood, it appears that the spring at the Well-house Tower, upon the south side of the rock, was in the corner of the royal garden.—In addition to, and confirmation of, the interesting intelligence re-

was directed by a vision to erect a house for canons regular upon the spot where the cross appeared to him. Accordingly, he founded this abbey, calling it the monastery of the Holy Cross, or Rood, and lodging in it, with solemn formality, the miraculous instrument of his preservation, which continued to act as a sacred relic in the abbey, till the battle of Durham, when it was taken by the English, and placed in the Cathedral of that town, where it remained till the Reformation.

The revenues with which the monastery was endowed were very ample ; and, though more than once destroyed by fire, the buildings continued to be increased and improved to a great extent previous to 1544, when the whole were destroyed by the English, excepting the nave,

specting the Postern-Gate of the castle, we may mention that, in 1689, Viscount Dundee, when preparing to rouse the Highlands in favour of King James, leaving his troop upon the place now occupied by the west end of Prince's Street, ascended the Castle-rock behind, and had a conference with the Duke of Gordon *at the Postern-Gate* ; which he could not have done, had the castle then been guarded by its present exterior defences.

which is all that now remains. This continued, after the Reformation, to be used as the parish-church of the Canongate, till the Duke of York, a few years before the Revolution, commanded the inhabitants of the parish to resort elsewhere, and fitted up the edifice in a splendid style as a chapel-royal. It was, however, completely desolated by the mobs in 1689, and ever since then has been in a ruinous condition.

An attentive observer, who surveys the ground to the east of the chapel, will easily perceive the foundations, indicated by green mounds, of some parts of the original building, destroyed as above. The ground thereabouts seems to have been used at a remote period as a cemetery; for, at every occasional excavation, vast quantities of bones are dug up. Some workmen, about a twelvemonth ago, in clearing out what appeared to be the overwhelmed remains of a cloister, found a skull, which had been used by the religious tenant of the little cell as, at once, the pedestal of a crucifix, and a useful memorandum for the direction of his ghostly studies. That these were its purposes, was proved by a hole in the apex of the cranium, and the appropriate legend, in old-faded charac-

ters, over the brow,—“MEMENTO MORI.” We were informed, that the poor man who found this ghastly but curious memorial, took it up, and, wiping off the mould, made an attempt to decipher the inscription, while the more ignorant of his fellows flocked around him, to hear what he could make out. He found great difficulty in deciphering it; but at last read out to his patient audience, “Mair—men—the-morn ;” which struck the whole circle, and more especially the Irish part of it, with surprise and indignation, as, before they took time to reflect, the whole business appeared to them as an announcement of their master’s intention of sending an additional supply of labourers next day, in order to get the work more speedily finished.—The skull is now in the possession of Sir Patrick Walker.

It is the opinion of an ingenious antiquary, with whom we have often conversed respecting the Abbey of Holyrood, that the arches upon the right hand side of the way, in entering the outer court of the Palace, are the remains of the ancient cloisters of the monastery. The porch, destroyed in 1753, was here, and appears, from a drawing in Mr. Arnot’s His-

tory, to have been a building of a monastic appearance. Moreover, in the immediate neighbourhood of these supposed cloisters (in the north garden) are the *vestigia*, or foundations, still visible of a religious building.

At what time the Abbey was first dignified by the addition of a Palace, does not very distinctly appear. Its vicinity to the King's Park, and to the hills, then covered with wood, must have recommended it, at least, as an occasional residence, whenever the perils of the time did not require the sovereign to immure himself in Edinburgh Castle. The poems of Dunbar, and Drummond's History of the five Jameses, show that the Abbey was inhabited by James IV as a permanent residence ; and, from the Annals of Marioriebanks, a citizen of Edinburgh, who has recorded in a diary, lately published by Mr. Dalyell, a number of curious historical facts of the sixteenth century, it appears that the Duke of Albany, governor of Scotland immediately after the death of the above monarch, built part of a palace there, and, in 1516, confined the Earl of Home in the "auld tower of Halierudhouss," previous to consigning that unfortunate nobleman to the block. It is pro-

bable, from an inscription, formerly visible, that the present north-west tower was built in the reign of James V ; but it is perhaps older. In 1544, the Palace, as well as the Abbey, was burnt by the English. It was, however, the advantage of Gothic structures, that the walls were seldom affected by fires, and that the internal part, which alone could suffer injury, was easily replenished. The Palace of Holyrood House was, accordingly, restored, long before the arrival of Queen Mary from France, in 1561, when it appears to have consisted in four courts.—At this period, from French Paris's depositions, it appears that there were galleries, or open corridors, about the building.—From a letter by Randolph, (see Ellis's Original Letters,) concerning the Queen's marriage with Darnley, we find that, besides the Chapel-Royal, she had also a private Chapel in the Palace. The Queen had a garden at the south side of the Abbey.—*N.B.* The present garden behind the Palace was a bowling-green during the sixteenth century.—In the MS. Life of King James the Sixth, mention is made of a part of the buildings called “The Traitor's Tower.” Some idea may be obtained of the

appearance of the whole in the time of James VI, from the “Pennilesse Pilgrimage of Taylor the Water Poet,” who visited it in 1623. He says, “I was at his Majesties palace, a most princely seat, wherein I saw a sumptuous chapel, most richly adorned with all appurtenances belonging to so sacred a place and so royal an owner. In the minor court, I saw the king’s armes cunningly carved in stone, and fixed over a door aloft in the wall, the red lion being the crest, over which was written this inscription in Latin,—*Nobis hæc invicta miserunt 106 proavi.*” But a still more distinct memorial of the appearance of this former palace is happily preserved in a rare print, of which we never heard of more than one copy, and *that* is now in the possession of Mr. David Laing. There was a quadrangle, as now; but the north-west towers had no corresponding buildings at the other corner, though the front projected farther to the south. The front of the quadrangle had a large door-way, with a wicket, and a row of tall windows, with glass at top, and boards at bottom,—as was the fashion in the best Scottish houses so late as after the Revolution. There was also a building

to the east corresponding with the Chapel-Royal, and designated “*the Landry*.”—In the bird’s-eye view of Edinburgh engraved by De Wit, (1649,) all this is confirmed ; and there is also a row of small houses in the park behind, fronting towards the back of the palace.

Holyrood House was the principal residence of the court, and the scene of all important public transactions, during the reigns of Queen Mary and her son. By the latter it was left to dust and desolation in 1603 ; and when he revisited it, in 1617, he was obliged to preface his arrival in Edinburgh with an edict, ordering it to be repaired, and certain parts, which were either so ruinous or so ungraceful, as to deform the general appearance of the whole, to be altogether destroyed. The house was also ordered to be newly *thatched*.—When Charles I visited Scotland, in 1633, the Palace was again put in repair, and much of the furniture of what are called Queen Mary’s apartments seems to have been introduced upon this occasion. He was crowned in the Chapel-Royal, with much state and many ceremonies, as is amply recorded in the “*Annales*” of Sir James Balfour, who was Lord Lyon at the time.—In

1650, the whole of the Palace and Abbey, except the imperishable north-west tower of the former, was burnt by the troops of Cromwell. At the Restoration, the Palace, such as it was, seems to have been occupied by the Duke of Rothes, viceroy of Scotland ; and it was during this reign that the buildings acquired their present extended dimensions and beautiful appearance. The king's motives, in erecting so sumptuous an edifice in his neglected kingdom of Scotland, do not appear to have been ever inquired into ; though we think they may easily be traced to the desire of the royal brothers to attach this part of their dominions as firmly as possible, and to prepare, perhaps, for the evil day, when they or their successors might be obliged to retreat to the patrimonial territory of their grandfather. This is rendered still more probable by the conduct of the Duke of York, who, immediately after the renovation of the Palace, came to reside in it, and, by his stately and formal courtesy towards the proud aristocracy of Scotland, laid the foundation of that attachment to his person and family, which afterwards showed itself in so many unsuccessful insurrections. His Royal Highness, with

his family and vice-regal court, occupied the Palace during the greater part of the years 1681–2; and he bequeathed his name to *the Duke's Walk*, a level space, extending from the back of the Palace to the verge of the park, and once shaded with lofty trees, which are now felled. For a long time this was the usual place where the gentlemen of Edinburgh were wont to decide affairs of honour.—After the Revolution, the Palace suffered a sort of siege by the mob, who succeeded in completely desecrating the Chapel-Royal. After this period, Holyrood House, like the country of which it was the metropolitan palace, ceased to be a place of any consideration with government.—In 1745, it was temporarily restored to the condition of a court, by the residence of Prince Charles-Edward; and, in the subsequent year, was occupied for a few nights by the Duke of Cumberland, who treated the Whig ladies of Edinburgh with a ball, in one of its stately and spacious rooms. Both before and after this period, it was occasionally illuminated by transient gleams of former splendour, when the election of a Scotch representative peer took place within its desolate courts,

and when these ceremonies were always concluded with a ball, attended by all the *beau monde* of Edinburgh, then inclusive of many noble personages. It was also the scene, annually, of a gay assemblage, called the Hunters' Ball.—About the year 1780, the Palace and park were much indebted to the attentions of Lord Adam Gordon, who resided in it while commander-in-chief of the forces in Scotland. He had, however, the bad taste to paint all the oak carved-work white.—In 1795, the southern apartments were fitted up for the reception of the Compte d'Artois, (now Charles X of France,) and the emigrant nobility who were attached to his person. It is said, that these unfortunate personages were sometimes obliged, upon the failure of remittances, to have recourse to the protection afforded them by the sacred character of the ground. Yet, in general, they were very gay, and the Compte had brilliant levees. The tradesmen of the Canongate experienced considerable advantages from the neighbourhood of this little court, whose departure, in 1799, occasioned universal lamentation. While the Compte resided in Holyrood House, his mistress, Madame Polistron,

lived in a small white-washed house, at the entry to Craftanrigh, looking into the park. Her son by him—Louis Polistron—a very handsome youth, was at Madame Rossignol's dancing-school, where he was in love with about two score Scottish young ladies at once. He used to wait at the bottom of the stair, in order to catch and kiss these his fellow-pupils, one by one, as they descended,—his valet assisting him, by holding them, till all were dispatched ;—and, as we have been informed by one of them, who is still very handsome, it is consistent with her experience, that young Louis took care to demonstrate his partiality for the prettiest, by the number and violence of his kisses.—Between this period and 1822, the Palace was not inhabited by any person of distinction, with the occasional exception of the noblemen who have grants of various apartments. It was, at the latter period, restored to more than its former splendour, by the visit of his present Majesty, for whose accommodation a suite of state-apartments were fitted up in the south side of the quadrangle, which are still shown to strangers. The various magnificent spectacles witnessed, upon this occasion, in and

around Holyrood House, will not soon be effaced from the memory of the present generation.

The old state-apartments, still pointed out as the residence of Queen Mary, are situated in the north-west towers, so often alluded to, and are accessible by a stair leading from the corresponding angle of the interior piazza. After one straight flight of stone steps, upon which there is a balustrade of iron, bearing figures of Scots thistles, this stair becomes spiral, and winds up the north-east corner-turret, the walls of which are observed, from the depth of the windows and shot-holes, to be of immense thickness.

After ascending two stories, we enter a small dark chamber, which seems to have been portioned off from the next apartment by a wooden partition. It is here that a dark shade, said to have been occasioned by the blood of Rizzio, is pointed out upon the floor; but if the reader can discern any trace of this venerable traditionary absurdity, he certainly deserves credit for his perspicacity. Moreover, the boards must be modern.

The next room is shown as the Presence-Chamber; but now contains a bed, which we are informed was brought from another part of the Palace, and placed here, for the convenience of exhibition. This is said to have been the bed whereon Prince Charles-Edward slept in 1745;* and which was, a few months afterwards, occupied by his triumphant foe, the Duke of Cumberland. It has the appearance of great antiquity; and being now in a very infirm condition, is encircled with a line of low screens, in order to protect it from the contact of the spectators.

The Presence-Chamber is pretty large, and must have been more extensive before the abridgment above mentioned. The roof is of fine oak, and carved out into compartments, the angles of which are adorned with ciphers of various kings, queens, and princes, in faded paint and gold. The walls are entirely covered with

* A large washing-vat, which had been used in the Palace for brewing ale to the Chevalier, was, in scorn, expelled therefrom by the Hanoverians, and for a long time used as a lining to the watering-trough near Jock's Lodge.

prints and pictures, some of which are good, and very rare. In the deep embrasure of the north window are two small portraits of John Duke of Lauderdale and his celebrated spouse,—perhaps the most dissolute, yet talented, couple, of their time, in Scotland. Larger portraits of the two celebrated royal mistresses, Jane Shore and Moll Davies,* are also shown in this apartment;—as also, a sofa, lined with blue silk, and adorned with ciphers, which the exhibatrix declares to be formed by the initials of Mary and Darnley, but which, in reality, are the initials of Charles I and his queen, Henrietta Maria. These apartments having been last fitted up for the reception of that monarch, it is probable that much of what is shown as the relics of the unfortunate Marie, must be referred to a later date, and a history pregnant with less interest.

It was in this chamber, however, that the interview of Knox and the queen took place,—a circumstance which certainly deserves the par-

* The exhibatrix calls it Nell Gwin: but that cannot be the case, for Nell was fair-haired.

ticular attention of the visitor. Here stood that dark, iron man, resolutely telling Beauty the truth, inveighing against her errors, and not even sparing her tears ;—and it must have been in the adjoining antechamber that he told her indignant attendants how little he cared “for the pleasant face of a gentlewoman.” Mary had not the presence or the strength of mind of her mother, who, when assailed by the written rebukes of Knox, handed his letter to the Archbishop of Glasgow, saying lightly, “Please you, my lord, to read a pasquil !”

This may also have been the scene of the queen’s gay galliards ; and here she may have listened with rapture to the strains of Chatelét and Rizzio. Probably, in this very apartment was celebrated the marriage of Sebastian ; and these walls may have heard the shrieks, and witnessed the horror, with which she received intelligence of the death of Darnley.

From this room the visitor passes to the Queen’s Bed-chamber, which is of smaller dimensions, and, occupying the front of the tower, has a window facing towards the bottom of the Canongate. Here is shown “the Queen’s Bed,” which is of crimson damask, bordered

with green silk fringes and tassels,—the whole now in a very decayed state. His present Majesty, who visited all these rooms, is said to have expressed an high opinion of the tastefulness and beauty of the work, which is said to have been that of his unfortunate progenitrix.* The room is hung round with a piece of tapestry, representing the story of Phaëton. Of this, the pieces seem to have been shifted from their proper places, or to have been originally misarranged, in order to suit the various sides of the room; for we have the mother and sisters of the sun-born youth, tearing their hair, and turning into poplars, one panel before poor Phaëton himself is tumbled into the Po! In this room are shown a worked basket, shaped like a platter, in which it is said King James's clothes were kept, when a child,—and the “Queen's Dressing-Box,” which is flowered

* At Scone, is shewn a bed of green silk, embroidered and worked all over with a tracery of silver,—said to have been the work of Queen Marie, while confined in Lochleven Castle. The bed of James VI is also preserved in one of the upper rooms of this splendid modern mansion.

with silk, and now inclosed in a glass-case, for preservation. The first of these articles has been introduced within the last thirty years, and the last is plainly spurious. The only curious article in this room is a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, apparently of her time, and of which the hands have been painted embrued with blood.

A room is pointed out in the south-west turret, entering from the bed-chamber, which is called “the Queen’s Dressing-room.” It cannot be proved that this was its particular purpose; but we learn, from Lord Ruthven’s narrative, that Rizzio sometimes slept in it.

The turret at the right-hand side of the bed-chamber contains the small room (about twelve feet square) in which the queen sat at supper when Rizzio was torn from her side by his murderers. The walls are now bare, on account of the decay of the hangings, which seem to have been of silk. The whole appearance of the room is wonderfully mean, the mantelpiece coarse and unadorned, and the lumber which it contains adding greatly to its desolate air. Close to the door of this interesting room is shown a door of similar dimensions, leading

to a small chamber and private stair, by which the assassins ascended to the queen's supper-room ; and it is remarkable, that as this secret way issues into the chapel, they must have traversed that sacred place, without hesitation or compunction, but a few minutes before perpetrating the wicked deed. This door was a secret one, being covered by the tapestry, a piece of which still hangs over it in a ragged festoon,—perhaps the very tapestry which was brushed aside by the armed hand of Ruthven, and the stately form of Darnley!—“Upon Saturday, at night, near unto 8 of the clock,” says the Earl of Bedford in his letter to the Privy Council of England, (Ellis,) “the king conveyeth himself, the Lord Ruthven, George Douglas, and two other, thorowe his own chamber by the privy stayers, up to the queen’s chamber ; going to which there is a cabinet about 12 feet square, in the same a little low reposing bed, and a table, at the which there were sitting at the supper the queen, the Lady Argyll, and David with his cap upon his head.”—“These lords, and the king with them,” says Patrick Anderson, (Hist. Scot. MS.) “rushed together into the queen’s roome ; assaulted the

fellow with their naked swords, as he tasted meat coming from the queen's table at the cupboorde before hir face, being great w^t child, trembling w^t fear, and setting a pistoll to hir breast ; and pulling the wretch out of hir hands (who gript fast unto hir) violentlie out into the utter chamber, he all the tyme crying most pitifullie to the queene, Justitia, justitia, madame ! save ma vie ! save ma vie ! and there most cruellie, without pitie, killed him, shooting (pushing) the queene into an upper parlor." He had previously struggled for a good while with Lord Ruthven in the embrasure of the window. From other accounts of this dreadful event, it appears probable that Rizzio received the first stab in presence of the queen, and was dispatched in the stair descending from the presence-chamber. Mary's person was held in durance for two days after by the murderers ; but she at length escaped, and rode off to Dunbar.—In the room which we have described, are exhibited what are called Darnley's sword-belt, and one of his boots, (which are evidently of the age of Charles II,) besides a helmet, breast-plate, back-plate, gloves, and sleeve-armour, which are also said to have been his, though it

may be observed, that the last article could only have fitted a man with very short arms, which peculiarity of person is well known not to have belonged to Darnley. A long black Indian reed is also exhibited as the shaft of his spear ; and the slip-shod menial shows a large block of marble, whereon, she says, Mary sat at her coronation. We may be permitted to observe, that the poor Queen never sat on so cool a seat at any after period of her life.

The doors, surbases, and the floors of these apartments, are all certainly of date posterior to the era of Mary ; and Rizzio's blood upon the latter is a mere imagination. Much of the furniture, too, is of recent introduction ; and the greater part of the lumber which is crammed down the throats of the curious, could easily be proven to be spurious. We cannot, therefore, leave the scene without saying, that the gratification of the intelligent visitor would certainly be much enhanced, if those in authority would turn all the trumpery which is now shown out of doors, (inclusive of their trumpery exhibitrix,) and only show the bare walls, which it is sufficient to know once contained within their bounds the persons of “Scotia’s

beauteous queen" and the associates in her dark and melancholy history. At present, the eye and the ear of the visitor are at once so much disturbed by the absurdities which are shown, and the absurdities which are told, that it is entirely out of his power to make those reflections which the scene in itself might be naturally expected to excite.

The room under the presence-chamber, used by the Hamilton family as a dining-room, contains portraits of the following personages.

Queen Mary, in the dress in which she was executed. So says the housekeeper, who adds that it is an original. But it is at least improbable that the queen sat for her picture on the morning of her execution, as she must have had but little time; though we know that Sarah Malcolm, after condemnation, sat to Hogarth, and put on rouge for the occasion.

Dorothy, Countess of Sutherland—Waller's *Sacherissa*—a copy from Vandyke. She is represented as a shepherdess, with a large hat of the gipsey kind, which probably gave rise to the story so long told, with a sly wink, and in a whisper, by the housekeeper, that this is a picture of the Lady Cassillis, who ran off with

Johnnie Faa ; which scandalous legend, by the bye, is countenanced only by tradition and the well-known ballad.

A Priest, baptized (by the housekeeper) Cardinal Beatoun, and as such engraved in Pennant's Tour, where it is strangely asserted that the dress is red. It is black ; and the portrait is that of a clergyman about the reign of Charles I, or later.

// John Knox—of doubtful authenticity, though he looks sour enough to turn all the small beer in the Canongate. There is an engraving from this in Pinkerton's “Scottish Gallery.”

King Charles II, and some family portraits of the Hamiltons, are also here.

In the adjoining room, under the queen's bed-chamber, is her portrait, painted in France when sixteen. This has all the air of an original,* and is painted with a very great deal of labour.

* It is mortifying to think, that Scotland cannot boast of an undoubted original of Queen Mary. All the portraits of her, in a red gown and small cap, are copied from a picture once in the possession of Lord Carleton, now,

Mary of Lorrain, her mother—a small picture. If a Scottish queen, this must, from the armorial bearings at top, be Margaret, wife of James IV.

The Regent Murray—doubtful.

Over the mantelpiece, a good picture of the first Duke of Hamilton, beheaded after the battle of Worcester: and, over the door, the Countess of Southesk, his niece, whom the housekeeper has transformed into the Duchess of Portsmouth.

In a room in the front of the palace, belonging to this suite of apartments, is a full-length portrait of a young man, said to be that

we believe, in that of the Duke of Devonshire. Those in black, having a caul set out with wire, such as that in the Trinity House of Leith, (commonly supposed to be her mother,) were taken from a picture at St. James's, which is known to have been painted by Mytens. Therefore, she could not have sat for it. The picture in the possession of the Earl of Morton is said to have been painted in Lochleven, which is next to impossible. And that which the Earl of Marr possessed was burnt at Alloa, having probably, however, been done after her death, as she held a passion-flower in her hand.

of Darnley. In a corner of the picture there is a date, 16—, which renders that *on dit* nonsense. It probably represents the second Marquis of Hamilton, when young.

In LORD DUNMORE'S APARTMENTS there was, till very lately, an interesting picture of Charles I and his queen, attended by Jeffrey Hudson, the dwarff, and a black boy, going forth to ride. This picture, which has unluckily been removed to the country, was painted by Mytens, and came into the Dunmore family by the marriage of the first earl with Miss Watts of the county of Hereford.

In THE EARL OF BREADALBANE'S APARTMENTS we find the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale—she remarkably ugly, which is an injustice on the painter's part, as we know, from Sir George Mackenzie, that she preserved her beauty till an advanced period of her life.—A large picture, copied from the beautiful group of the Buckingham family, by Vandyke, in the possession of the Earl of Marr. This the housekeeper calls Charles I's family. A full-length portrait of Lady Isabella Rich, (daughter to Lord Holland, and sister to the first Countess of Breadalbane,) in white satin, with

a Theorbo lute. Waller has celebrated her excellence on this instrument ; and Aubrey tells us that she and her sister saw their own apparitions (the last in the garden at Kensington, in broad daylight) before their deaths. A Countess of Kildare, very prettily painted.—The first Earl of Breadalbane's two wives, both of whose fathers, it is remarkable, lost their heads on the scaffold. The second countess, when she fell upon her knees, to beg the head of her father, the Marquis of Argyll, was well nigh kicked by the brutal Lord Middleton.

When the present French king lived in the Palace, there were two pictures (one in his bed-chamber, and another in the dining-room) which excited much attention. They were, a portrait of his sister, Madame Elizabeth, painted by Madame Le Brun ; and a seaport view, in oils, done by that unfortunate princess herself. The last, when he went to London, he gave to Lady Elizabeth Murray.

The portraits of the 106 Scottish monarchs, shown in the northern gallery, and which have excited the derision of every tourist, were

painted for a pageant when Charles I entered Edinburgh.

The CHAPEL-ROYAL is entered by a door leading from the north-east corner of the façade or piazza of the Palace. Having been for sixty years unroofed, the interior walls are dusky and weather-worn; and of the northern range of pillars, which once assisted in supporting the roof, only two broken and tottering stumps remain. The central space between the ranges of pillars is now a grass-green plot; while, along the sides, a good deal of the original sculptured pavement still points out that the ground is sacred and sepulchral. The oriel window is entire, but of recent renovation; and enough of the building remains upon the south side to give the stranger an idea of its former proportions and magnificence.—In the vestry, a tower at the north-west corner, about fifty feet high, is shown the tomb of Robert Viscount Belhaven, which is nearly two centuries old, and of Parian marble. The vestry has much the appearance of a coal-house, and the marble has seen whiter days. A considerable number of the stones in the pavement of the chapel bear crosses crossletted, the armo-

rial bearings of the Canongate ; and it would appear, that all the tombs so distinguished belong to burgesses and tradesmen of that place. The exhibitrix showed us one of the tombs, with an inscription, bearing that the tenant was “an honest man ;” and we found out another honest man almost close beside him,—only having his epitaph in modest Latin, which she promised to add to her catalogue.—We also discovered the tomb of Bartoulme Foliot, a French pavior, who, along with another Frenchman, was engaged by the magistrates of Edinburgh, to pave, for the first time, the street of Edinburgh, early in the 16th century. The name was quite plain upon the stone, which lies upon the north side of the chapel, about an equal distance from either end.—Here is also shown the monument of Bishop Wishart, the preceptor and biographer of Montrose ; as also of Bothwell, the last abbot of Holyrood, who married Mary to the Earl of Bothwell, according to the forms of the Protestant Church.—The Royal Vault is at the south-east corner, and is now closed up. This was not the customary burying-place of the Scottish monarchs, though the vault contains

the relics of James V,—of his first queen, Magdalén of France,—of Darnley,—and James's natural daughter, the Countess of Argyll. Rizzio was also buried here. Skene says, that James was not originally buried in this place; but his first tomb having been defaced by the English in 1544, King James VI caused his body to be re-embalmed, and interred here. The vault was discovered in 1680; and the mob at the Revolution broke into it, and defaced and stole some of the coffins. For upwards of a century thereafter, the fragments of the royal bodies were shown to visitors, including the thigh-bones of Darnley, which confirmed the traditional accounts of his great height. There was also a complete Countess of Roxburgh, all save one hand; and this unfortunate lady being shrivelled to a mummy, was usually brought out and thrown down on the grass for leisurely examination. The whole body was black, saving one white tooth, which gave an indescribable horror to the face; and used to make gentlemen shudder, and children squall, and ladies—*think* of fainting. All these indecencies were at length put a stop to, about twenty-five years ago, when Madame de Guiche,

wife of the present Duke de Gramont, having died at the Palace, was deposited in the vault till such time as she could be transported to her native country ; and it was then of course locked up. Some time after this, when our informant visited the chapel with some friends, the garrulous old woman who showed the place made a sad lament. “ Ah, gentlemen ! ” said she, “ if ye had come here a while syne, I could hae showed ye muckle mair than ye see noo—King James the Fifth’s shoother, and nearly the hale o’ the Countess o’ Roxburgh, and baith Lord Darnley’s thie-banes, and a gude bit o’ the Yerl o’ Buchan’s back ! But there cam a French hizzie, that dee-ed here : sae first they pat her in a lead coffin, and than in a wudden ane, and set her up on four stoops, and closed the door on her. They say she’s to gang back to France when the king gets there again ; but I think she’ll lie here till the day o’ joodgement ! ”

After having thus illustrated every object of curiosity within the walls of Holyrood, we may make a brief survey of its environs.

The low line of houses in front of the Palace stand upon the site of what were the

ROYAL STABLES in former times: hence the alley behind them is still called the *Horse Wynd*. An old house upon the north side of the street, and immediately within the strand, being distinguished by an outside stair, and having gables to the street, is said to have been the **LORD-KEEPER'S HOUSE**.—The house at the corner of the cloisters, already pointed out, is the **COURT-HOUSE AND JAIL OF THE ABBEY**, which is a distinct jurisdiction, governed by a bailie.

The lane called **CRAFTANRIGH**, behind the Palace, and extending between the park and the village of the Abbey-Hill, contains a very old house, said to have been the residence, at one time, of the Regent Murray; and, in the garden attached to the same, is a tree, said to have been planted by the hand of Mary. There also resides in this lane a family of poor fishermen, who declare themselves to be descended from the family whose office it was, of yore, to supply the royal table with shrimps, or prawns, a shell-fish found near Musselburgh. They occupy the same house; and, if their tale be true, we may consider them as almost the only ex-

isting memorial of the Scottish court,—no other tradition respecting the residence of anything royal in Holyrood House being known in the neighbourhood. They still subsist by gathering shell-fish and *dulse*, which they sell in the city.

From the bottom of the road now leading along the face of Salisbury Crags, a very singular natural curiosity is pointed out,—namely, a profile of Nelson, formed by the skyline of the perpendicular rock under his monument upon the Calton Hill. This is supposed to be a recent discovery; but, in our early youth, it was known to the boys of Edinburgh as a likeness of George III; though it certainly resembles Nelson more than our late sovereign.

At the eastern termination of the Duke's Walk formerly stood MUSCHAT'S CAIRN, denoting the spot upon which Nicol Muschat killed his wife, in the year 1720. It was taken away, about forty years ago, by Lord Adam Gordon; and has, of late years, been restored, by a pile of new stones, placed nearly upon the original spot.

The romantic ruin of ST. ANTHONY'S CHAPEL, upon a height overlooking the park, is deserving of a visit. It was a small religious house, connected with a monastery in Leith, and of unknown antiquity. It had at one time a steeple, which is supposed to have been used as a sort of observatory in respect of the vessels in the Firth of Forth, the whole entrance of which is commanded from this spot; and it is known to have been fortified during the troubles of Mary's reign. At the distance of a few feet, the *vestigium* of an hermitage is still to be observed; and near the bottom of the rock is St. Anton's Well, celebrated in Scottish song.

From the top of Arthur's Seat may be obtained a view of twelve counties, including an animated variety of cities, forests, hills, lakes, and fields; while, in the valley below, the stranger completely loses sight of all the surrounding scenery, and might fancy himself plunged into a Highland desert, many miles from the abode of any living being.

To the south of Salisbury Crags are the heights of St. Leonard's, which, like the rest of the localities of this neighbourhood, have, of

late years, received an imperishable charm from the pen of the Great Unknown.

Note.—A grant of £24,000, or, for six years, £4000 annually, was made by his Majesty, for the repair of Holyrood House, May 1824; and since then the work of renovation has been proceeding, under the direction of Mr. Reid, the King's architect for Scotland.

WALK THROUGH THE NEW
TOWN.

WALK THROUGH THE NEW TOWN.*

THE west end of the Register House is skirted by the first limb of a narrow zig-zag street, still known popularly by the name of GABRIEL'S ROAD, through which, as by the horrid way

* The New Town was first projected in 1753, but was not commenced till the year 1767. Very few houses were erected in it till about 1775, and towards 1780, when two or three streets were finished, and when it had nearly proceeded so far west as Hanover Street. At first, no more was projected than what is included by Prince's Street on the south, and Queen's Street on the north,—and this was laid out after a design by Mr. James Craig, an ingenious architect, the son of a sister of the celebrated author of the Seasons. About the beginning of the present century, this original New Town was completed ; and another, of equal

which *Æneas* passed,' in approaching Elysium, we propose to introduce the stranger to the splendours of the New Town. This place, though now a thriving street, is still pregnant with disagreeable associations, arising from its having been the scene of a dreadful murder, which took place, about the beginning of the last century, under the following circumstances.

A probationer of the Church of Scotland, named Thomas Hunter, when employed as domestic tutor in a gentleman's family in Edinburgh, happened to entertain some partiality for the abigail of the mother of his pupils, who

dimensions, but slightly varied in plan, was projected, and commenced, to the north. This also is now nearly completed. A third New Town has been proceeding, for some years past, upon the lands of Coates, to the west of Mr. Craig's plan. A fourth was begun in 1823, and is already nearly completed, upon the grounds belonging to the Earl of Moray, a little to the north of the preceding. A fifth New Town is at present in progress, to the east of the Calton Hill ; and a sixth has been just projected, immediately to the west of the Old Town, upon the grounds between Coates and Coltbridge.

observing him one day salute the girl, when he thought himself unobserved, told the circumstance, by way of a good joke, to their mother, the same evening. Upon being reproved, in consequence, by his employers, for a trivial trespass, which, in those days, was sufficient to have disqualified him for his profession, he was seized with the most violent feelings of revenge, and adopted the resolution of sacrificing to his indignation the innocent instruments of his disgrace. Accordingly, next Sunday, when walking, *between sermons*, with his pupils, near this place, which was then a narrow road, leading through green fields, he suddenly drew a clasp-knife from his pocket, and stabbed the eldest of the children to the heart. The younger boy gazed on him for a moment, and then fled, with shrieks of terror; but the murderer pursued him, with the bloody knife in his hand, and slew him also, as soon as he was overtaken. The whole of this scene was observed distinctly from the Castlehill, (then a common promenade of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, and especially on Sundays, *between sermons*), who were near enough to see every action of the murderer, and hear the cries of his victims, although the

deep ravine of the North Loch was far more than sufficient to prevent any possibility of rescue. The tutor sat down upon the spot, immediately after having concluded his butchery, as if in a stupor of despair and madness ; and was only roused to his recollection by the grasp of the hands that seized him. It so happened, that the magistrates of the city were assembled together in their council-room, waiting till it should be time for them to walk to church in procession, (as is their custom,) when the crowd drew near with their captive. The horror of the multitude was communicated to them along with their intelligence ; and they ordered the wretch to be brought at once into their presence. It is an old law in Scotland, that when a murderer is caught in the very act of guilt, (or, as it is called, *red-hand*,) he may be immediately executed, without any formality or delay ; and never, surely, could a more fitting occasion be found for carrying this old law into effect. The probationer was, therefore, hanged within an hour after the deed was done, the red knife being suspended from his neck, and the blood of the innocents scarcely dry upon his hands

To the above narrative, which is chiefly derived from “Peter’s Letters to his Kinsfolk,” the following illustrative circumstances may be added. Gabriel’s Road does not derive that name from the murderer, but, as we have heard, from a former proprietor of Inverleith, an ancient seat and estate, which may now be described as situated at the north-west and extreme corner of the New Town. This road, which was sinuous, and somewhat narrow, reached from Inverleith House to the city, and belonged exclusively to the proprietors of that estate, who had procured a grant of it from the magistracy as a free road for their use in going to the High Church, to attend public worship. It passed along the spot where the murder of the children took place, and where the street has acquired a tortuosity on its account; and then leading nearly straight north, went past the east end of Abercromby Place,—from whence, taking a more westerly direction, it led obliquely towards the Water of Leith, a little way below Stockbridge, and near to the present Claremont Street Chapel, where a small portion of it yet remains.

When the fields upon which the New Town

is now built flourished in their pristine condition, Gabriel's Road was a common place of assignation for lovers; and the sweet hawthorn hedges which formerly skirted it have shed their summer fragrance over many a happy scene of earnest passion and light-hearted bairnage. Often, too, have the merry lairds of Inverleith gone reeling home from the town along Gabriel's Road, after a night spent in the convivial excesses of former times. There is a tradition amongst the old women of the neighbouring village of Canonmills, that the "drucken laird" was one night going home, conducted by his son, who was almost as far gone in a propensity to social excesses as his father; and, upon this occasion, both were considerably elevated with liquor. As they went, they talked with the freedom of boon-companions, which was a very different thing from the reserve at that period customary in Scotland between parents and children; but when they came to a ford near Inverleith, the son, who was at least the strongest, if not the soberest, of the two, felt considerably annoyed at being obliged, in duty, to help his father over to the other side. Taking the old man upon his back,

however, he succeeded, with some difficulty, in transporting him over with safety ; when, feeling chafed and breathless with the exertion, (for the laird of Inverleith was no light weight,) he said to his father, half in good, and half in bad humour, “What d’ye think I’ve been thinking on this while past, father ?” “Deed, there’s nae sayin’, Gabbie,” answered Inverleith. “Deil hae me, father, but I’ve been thinking, that it wad be a grand thing if ye were to slip awa’ noo, and let me into the head-seat and the lairdship. What d’ye think yersel’ !”—“Yes, man, Gabbie,” answered the laird, not in the least provoked ; “and I’ll tell ye mair, *that’s* the very thing that struck me, in respect to *my* father, when I was your age, Gabbie, man ! And sae you are just your father’s son.”

We emerge from Gabriel’s Road, (otherwise called West Register Street,) at the south-east corner of ST. ANDREW’S SQUARE, in which a few remarkable objects are to be pointed out. The first, and most conspicuous, is MELVILLE’S MONUMENT, which rises in the centre of the square, in the shape of an elegant column, 136 feet high, and of which the model was Trajan’s

pillar at Rome. This beautiful structure was raised by subscription, in 1821-2, being just finished at the period of the King's visit. It is yet to be surmounted by a statue of Lord Melville, about sixteen feet high, which has been for a long time in preparation by Mr. Russel at Lanark. The column, which is not less than ten feet in diameter, and contains a spiral stair, varies from the column of the Roman original, which, instead of being fluted, is adorned with sculptures of Trajan's victories. This monument may be considered a work of great public utility, as it helps to remove the sole reproach of Edinburgh,—a paucity of spires.

The extreme western house upon the south side of St. Andrew's Square, entering from St. David's Street, though at present occupied by only a fashionable *schneider*, is worthy of notice, as having been, fifty years ago, the residence of the celebrated philosopher and historian, DAVID HUME.—He died here; and we have conversed with a kinswoman of the sceptic, who, when a child, was sent to attend him here upon his death-bed. What will appear strange, he, every morning and evening, caused

this juvenile attendant to kneel by his side, and say her prayers aloud ; and often, when very ill in bed, desired her to repeat to him the beautifully simple sentences of the Lord's Prayer.—The following more amusing, though not [more valuable, anecdote, we have seen in print. Previous to the painting of the names of the streets of the New Town upon the corners, and when the philosopher's house was almost the only one built in that street, his friend, Dr. Webster, one of the ministers of the city, and a professed wit, came past one day, and, in ironical allusion to the known infidelity of its tenant, wrote with chalk upon the front, "*Saint David's Street.*" Not long after, Mr. Hume's aged female servant happened to observe the inscription, and immediately ran in to inform her master of the joke which had been played off upon him. The philosopher, not at all disturbed, only said, in his usual quiet way, " Weel, weel, Janet, never mind.—I am not the first man of sense that has been made a saint of."

Directly opposite to Mr. Hume's house, upon the north side of St. Andrew's Square, and bearing the number 21, is the house in which

the celebrated HENRY BROUHAM was born. His grandmother, Mrs. Syme, sister of the illustrious Robertson, lived in the second flat of this house, while his father occupied the third ; and in it did that great orator first see the light. A particular account of the curious circumstances which led to the marriage of his parents has already been published in the work called "Traditions of Edinburgh."

The house terminating the same side of St. Andrew's Square to the east, (formerly the residence of the Earl of Buchan,) is remarkable, as having been the place where the SOCIETY OF SCOTTISH ANTIQUARIES was instituted, in 1784. All the houses in this square, which was the earliest part of the New Town, were at first (that is, fifty years ago) occupied by people of distinction. About six noblemen possessed then their own houses in it at one time, besides various Lords of Session, gentlemen of fortune, &c. ; but, of late years, since Fashion has retreated westwards and northwards, the greater part of the houses have been converted into shops and offices ; and the time does not appear to be far distant, when this square shall become the chief commercial

mart in the city,—a purpose for which it seems to be well adapted.

In a recess, upon the east side of the square, stands a beautiful edifice, which has, for the last thirty years, been occupied as the Excise-office. It is now the property and office of the ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, which, as we have said, in its earlier years, occupied narrow premises, consisting of three or four rooms, in an obscure *close* in the High Street. This bank was established in 1727 ; and its first stock was the sum of £111,000, due to Scotland by government, as an equivalent of certain privileges ceded at the Union. Its stock is at present £1,500,000.

The house now occupied by the Royal Bank, and which the directors lately purchased for the sum of £33,300, was originally built, for a private residence, by Sir Lawrence Dundas of Kerse, for a long time the representative of the city of Edinburgh in parliament, and the grandfather of the present Lord Dundas. As a curious trait of topographical history, we may mention, that, in order to preserve a view, from the northern windows, of the Firth of Forth and the beautiful scenery beyond, this

gentleman was at the expense of purchasing the feu of two pieces of building-ground in York Place, which he kept open as long as he retained the property, and which were afterwards alienated by the Board of Excise,—being the spots now filled up by St. George's Chapel and the house to the eastward. What is most curious in this anecdote is, that it shows, that no expectation was then entertained of the city extending farther to the north,—as, had that been thought of, Sir Lawrence would have required to purchase also the ground upon the opposite side of York Place, the very name of which, by the way, denotes that it was originally intended only to consist of one side. How the city has been doubled in this quarter since the commencement of the present century, we need not say. As a striking proof of the vast increase in the value of property in the New Town, we may add, that the Board of Excise purchased this house, thirty years ago, at only £10,000, inclusive of the feus in York Place, for which they must have, besides, received a considerable sum.

Besides the Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Andrew's Square also contains that of the BRITISH

LINEN COMPANY,—being the next house to the south,—and the NATIONAL BANK, a most promising establishment, which has just been formed by *joint-stock*; and for whose use were recently purchased those premises at the south-east corner of the square, at first built for the Earl of Haddington, and long well known as *Dumbreck's Hotel*. The handsome premises of the NEW CLUB,—a sort of private hotel, supported by the joint-purse of a number of gentlemen,—are situated upon the south side of the square.

From St. Andrew's Square we proceed westwards by GEORGE STREET. The length, uniformity, and beauty of the buildings of this street, taken in conjunction with its fine terminations, render it one of the finest in Europe; and it is designed to be rendered still more worthy of that character by the erection of various statues at the places where it is intersected by Hanover and Frederick Streets, and in Charlotte Square, at the western extremity. In proceeding westwards, the first public buildings which serve to give a variety to its somewhat sombre outline, are ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH upon the north side, and the PHYSICIANS' HALL,

occupying a corresponding situation upon the south. The former was erected in 1783; the latter was founded by the celebrated Dr. Cullen, and erected, after a design by Mr. Craig, in 1775. In the next division towards the west stands the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, having a portico projecting over the pavement.

When the stranger reaches that part of George Street where it is intersected by Castle Street, it may not be inconsistent with his wishes, that we should point out the residence of the far-famed SIR WALTER SCOTT. This interesting house occupies a situation, by no means prominent, a little way to the north of George Street, upon the east side of Castle Street, and bears the number 39,—which, as we once heard a foreigner remark, is, perhaps, the most appropriate number that could have been borne by the house of such a man, as the first figure represents the number of the *Graces*, and the last that of the *Muses*. Sir Walter only resides here during the terms of Session, and spends the other half of the year at his seat of Abbotsford.

Proceeding further along the line of George Street, the house upon the right-hand side,

bearing the number 133, is found to be the house of Sir John Sinclair,—a gentleman whose name is, perhaps, known as widely among foreigners as that of any other existing Scotsman, and whose unwearied exertions in the cause of agricultural and other improvements, will certainly deserve no little portion of the gratitude of posterity.

George Street is terminated to the west by CHARLOTTE SQUARE, in the centre of the west side of which stands ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, a massy, Grecian edifice, with a dome in imitation of that of St. Paul's. Of this church, which is parochial, the minister is DR. ANDREW THOMSON, one of the most popular of our Scottish preachers.

Turning to the left, towards Prince's Street, we approach a beautiful Gothic structure, designated ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL, which is the diocesan place of worship of the Bishop of Edinburgh, according to the communion of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The chapel was erected in 1816–8, at an expense of £15,000.

As a contrast to this tasteful edifice, the WEST CHURCH, (or parish-church of St. Cuthbert's,—the most populous in Scotland,) rears

its huge ungainly form at no great distance in the valley below. This fabric was erected about forty years ago, upon the spot which had been occupied for several centuries by the former church of St. Cuthbert's. It is said, that when the heritors determined upon renewing their place of worship, they pitched upon the architect whose estimate was least expensive, and who excluded from his plan the unnecessary ornament of a steeple; but, after getting time to contemplate the ground cumbered by an enormous oblong barn, with huge disproportioned windows, they repented of the enormity which they had sanctioned; and endeavoured to repair their error, by building a steeple in a style of ornamented and florid architecture, as if the absurd finery of such an appendage could relieve the heaviness of the principal building, which it only rendered more deformed by the contrast. This anecdote is valuable, as showing the illiberality and want of taste in respect of clerical buildings, which prevailed even in the capital of Scotland down to very recent times, but which now seems to be happily corrected even in most prejudiced sects.—Upon the demolition of the ancient

church of St. Cuthbert's, when the congregation was, of course, destitute for some time of a place of worship, the manager of the Theatre is said to have, with praiseworthy liberality, made offer to them of the use of his house upon Sundays, till such time as their new church should be finished. This he did in a letter addressed to the minister, who returned for answer in very polite style, that he felt deeply indebted to the manager for his kindness, but begged to decline the use of the Theatre, on account of the prejudices of his parishioners ; though, for his own part, he believed “it would not be the worst plan, to *fight the Devil upon his own grounds !*”—The West Church is surrounded by an extensive cemetery, in which there is good reason for believing that the celebrated inventor of the logarithms lies interred, though we have already * stated that Napier was buried in St. Giles' Church. As it may be equally a subject of curiosity to the public, to

* At p. 83, where the Old Church is pointed out, by mistake, for the New or High Church, as the burying-place of the Napier family.

know the house in Edinburgh occupied by this great man while living, as to be certain respecting the site of the dark and narrow abode to which his mortal part was consigned after death, we may here mention, that his family house was that old wooden *land* at the head of Blackfriars' Wynd, which, within the last eighty years, continued to be known by the popular name of *Merchieston's Land*.

That part of Prince's Street which lies between this westerly point and the Earthen Mound, deserves to be here particularly noticed, as containing the residences of three men of distinguished genius, whom not to notice would argue one's self not notice-worthy. At No. 126, dwells Mr. SKENE of Rubislaw, the active secretary of the Antiquarian Society, and whom the author of Ivanhoe has justly styled, "the best amateur draughtsman in the kingdom." The cleverness of this gentleman as a draughtsman is, however, accompanied by a talent, which places him very far above the usual merits of that character. This is a talent somewhat akin to the peculiar genius of the author of Ivanhoe himself. Mr. Skene possesses imagination and learning; by means of

which he can revive, in his sketches, the bones of dead traditions, and clothe the same in the flesh, complexion, hue, and dress of former days, with a felicity which is only resembled in the works of that illustrious novelist. For instance, in his drawing of the ancient Cross of Edinburgh, instead of such a plan or elevation as a matter-of-fact artist would give, he presents it to our eyes as an existing picturesque reality, surrounded with a crowd of citizens in the costumes of the sixteenth century, who listen to the proclamation of a Scottish act of parliament, which takes place upon its platform ; and the whole is finely backed by the church of St. Giles, in all its pristine Catholic pomp, with a taper-lit statue of the Virgin at the corner, &c. In his exquisite drawing, too, of *the Maiden*, we have that tall, dark, terrible instrument, reared (as it must have often been) upon the High Street, with a scaffold, and all the attendants of an execution, and the criminal himself stretched down, prepared for the stroke.— Moreover, in a view of the Black Turnpike, which he copied from a mere *elevation* preserved in the Gentleman's Magazine, we see that magnificent old edifice, by torch-light, with

Queen Mary looking out from one of the windows, upon the street, which is crowded by her rebellious and reviling subjects, and the stern figures of the soldiery who have just conducted her from Carberry,—the whole as good, almost, as a chapter in the Abbot. Mr. Skene has many such draughts of the most interesting fragments of ancient Edinburgh, gone and surviving, all which we hope he will one day see fit to give to the world.

A few doors beyond Mr. Skene, (108,) resides Mr. PATRICK F. TYTLER, author of the Life of Crichton and Sir Thomas Craig, as yet a very young man, but who has already proved his title to the high literary honours which seem to be hereditary in his family.

Still further to the east, (93,) is the residence of Mr. CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE, well known to the public as editor of Kirkton's Church History, Law's Memorials, &c., and as the author of, at least, one exquisitely poetical ballad in the Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border, entitled "the Murder of Carlaverock." The biography and character of this gentleman, published a century hence, would be a most curious book. He is almost the last-existing specimen

of the *gentleman-author*, a character so common in the last century ; and his works, though not highly popular, have all of them the curious and piquant merit, that they are the spontaneous labours of a *gentleman* who can indulge his own taste, and not the productions of an *author*, who has to constrain himself in obedience to that of his booksellers or the general public. Had not independence and fashion, perhaps, spoiled Mr. Sharpe, for the necessary exertion, his wit, learning, and fancy, might have made him shine among the greatest.

Of the LOTHIAN ROAD, which leaves the western termination of Prince's Street at a right angle, and stretches away to the south, an amusing anecdote may be told. This road was for a long time projected, as being a design of great public utility ; but owing to the objections made (as is usual in such cases) by the proprietors of certain inestimable barns, sheds, and cow-houses, which required to be removed, it was a long time before the measures of the authorities concerned drew near to execution. After several years of speculation, and when the project was nearly agreed upon by all parties, the road was, to the surprise of the public, and the mortification of said proprietors, com-

pletely made and finished, without leave being asked, all in one day ! It so happened, that a gentleman, who had recently succeeded to his estate, laid a bet with a friend, to the effect that he would, between sunrise and sunset, execute the line of road, extending nearly a mile in length, and about twenty paces in breadth. This scheme he concerted with address, and executed with promptitude. It was winter, when many labouring men are often out of work ; so that he found no difficulty in collecting several hundreds at the spot upon the appointed morning before sunrise : and he took care to provide them with a plentiful supply of porter, usquebaugh, bread and cheese, and other inspiriting matters. No sooner had the sun peeped over the hills, than this immense *posse* fell to work, with might and main,—some to tear down inclosures, others to unroof and demolish cottages, and a considerable proportion to bring earth, wherewith to fill up the natural hollow to the required height. The inhabitants, dismayed at so vast a force, and so summary a mode of procedure, made no resistance ; and so active were the workmen, that before sunset the road was sufficiently formed

to allow the bettor driving his carriage triumphantly over it, which he did amidst the acclamations of a great multitude of persons, who had flocked from the town to witness the performance and issue of this herculean undertaking.—Amongst the instances of temporary distress known to have been occasioned to the inhabitants, the most laughable was that of a poor simple woman, who had a cottage, and a small cow-feeding establishment, upon the spot. It appears that this good creature had risen very early, as usual,—milked her cows,—smoked her pipe,—taken her ordinary matutinal meal of tea,—and, finally, recollecting that she had some friends invited to dine with her upon *sheep-head kail* about noon, placed the pot upon the fire, in order that it might simmer peacefully till she should return from the town, where she had to supply a numerous set of customers with the produce of her dairy. Let our readers imagine the consternation of this poor woman, when, upon her return from the duties of the morning, she found neither house, nor *byre*, nor cows, nor fire, nor pipe, nor pot, nor anything that was hers, upon the spot where she had left them a few hours before,—

all vanished like the unsubstantial pageant, or like the palace of Aladdin, on the morning after his marriage, when his princely father-in-law went to the window, as usual, to gratify his eyes with its splendour, and found it had been carried off to Africa during the night by the slaves of the wonderful lamp !

In the immediate neighbourhood, to the west, lies the *third* of the New Towns enumerated at the beginning of this article, and which is already remarkable for the beauty and number of its streets. The principal avenue towards it, is by Maitland Street,—a continuation of Prince's Street, though not in the same line. At No. 10, Shandwick Place, (opposite to Maitland Street,) resides the venerable and benevolent Earl of Marr, (to whom that title was restored in 1824)—a most interesting personage, when we consider that he is only the grandson of the great rebel chief of 1745.—At No. 10, Coates Crescent, resides Dr. Brewster, the talented and indefatigable editor of the Edinburgh Encyclopædia, and other scientific works of high reputation.

Reverting to Charlotte Square, we may observe, that the exclusive appropriation of this

place to the residence of the higher classes has been recently, for the first time, infringed upon, by the establishment of an hotel, by the deserving Mr. Oman, in the central house upon the north side.—Crossing the square diagonally, we reach the western extremity of Queen Street,—that magnificent terrace, from which may be commanded a view of the Forth,—from the east, where its horizon is bounded by the blue sky alone, to the west, where its “links” are lost amidst the distant Highland hills. Here, also, may be seen, at the distance of about two miles to the west, the woody ridges of the Corstorphine hills, embosomed amongst which lies Craig-Crook, the seat of the celebrated Mr. Jeffrey.—Near the west end of Queen Street, we find the BRITISH HOTEL, (opened in 1824,)—by far the most splendid establishment of this kind in Edinburgh. The accommodations, the furniture, and the fare of this sumptuous house, rather resemble those of an eastern tale than of a place of public entertainment ; and point out, in strong contrast, the present improved state of Scotland, as compared with the system of things which must have prevailed in the days not long gone,

when the old-fashioned inns of the Pleasance and Grassmarket were the sole resort of high and low.

Opposite to the British Hotel stands a range of large and beautiful edifices, designated ALBYN PLACE, the central part of which is appropriated to the use of the HIGHLAND SOCIETY, and contains their hall, library, museum, &c. This forms part of a vast tract of splendid buildings, or rather palaces, recently erected in this quarter, upon ground belonging to the Earl of Moray, and which, though commenced only so late as 1823, is already nearly completed. The various streets, places, and octagons of LORD MORAY'S GROUNDS, (as the whole has been designated,) extend between Charlotte Square and the Water of Leith, and are designed to contain the residences of the *magnates* of Edinburgh, whose fate it is, every few years, to be expelled from their appropriated districts by the intrusion of the trading classes.

At a little distance to the east of the British Hotel, we find a house, (62,) which contains the residence of the celebrated Professor Leslie, and which the stranger will scarcely pass, without paying mental homage to the great na-

tural talents, and no less prodigious scientific accomplishments, of its distinguished tenant.

Passing eastward along Queen Street, it is found to be intersected, about its centre, by Hanover Street ; and here turning a little to the right, we find, upon the west side of the latter street, (54,) the residence of Mr. GRAHAM DALYELL, advocate. This gentleman, who was one of the earliest literary friends of Mr. Constable, has the merit of having first, by his publications, about thirty years ago, given an impulse to the taste for Scottish antiquities, which has since become so general, and produced such a glorious harvest of excellent publications.

Leaving Queen Street behind, and passing northwards, we reach the SECOND New Town, which is separated from the former by a series of beautiful gardens, extending nearly a mile in length. We cannot pass this great embellishment of the city, without some complimentary notice. The eastern division has been, for several years, laid out and planted with shrubberies, and has now attained considerable perfection ; but the two divisions to the west are of comparatively recent date, and cannot be

considered as seen at present to advantage. In the former, where, we understand, it is absolutely possible to lose one's self, evening fêtes are occasionally held ; and as the gardens are only patent to the respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood, a degree of harmony and freedom has hitherto characterised every such occasion. Scarcely anything could exceed the brilliancy of such a scene,—lights hung upon the trees and amidst the flowers,—festive groups of ladies passing lightly to and fro,—and transient glimpses, occasionally caught, of the splendid houses around,—the whole forcibly reminding the spectator of Moore's description of the gardens and palaces of Normahaul. All the gardens are laid out in the *landscape style*, with labyrinthine walks, which are the constant and favourite promenade of those privileged with a right of entry ; and the whole is open to at least the sight of the public, on account of the inequalities of the ground, and the inclosures being of the kind called *invisible*. So large a space allotted to pleasure-grounds is certainly unusual in populous cities, and cannot fail to impress strangers with an high opinion of the very peculiar general character of Edin-

burgh. In this singular city,—instead of what is common in all others, a dense unvaried assemblage of mere streets,—we have, upon the one hand, projected into the midst of the travelled and crowded ways of men, mountainous places, never yet touched by human foot,—and, upon the other, we see, as it were, brought up to the very doors of artificial existence, refreshing and unfailing supplies of the primitive commodities of nature.

Hanover Street is continued into the second New Town by Dundas Street, to the east of which lies ABERCROMBY PLACE. This fine row of buildings was not originally designed to be a crescent; but it having been found impossible to give it a straight form, on account of a small corner of the grounds now occupied by the garden, and then belonging to a different proprietor, (which would, in that case, have been encroached upon, and which the proprietor would not yield but at a vast price,) this plan was adopted, as the only practicable expedient. The idea of a crescent had never before been conceived by the Edinburgh architects; and we have heard that this was suggested to them, in their dilemma, by a common workman.

Proceeding westward along Heriot Row, we find, at No. 6, the residence of HENRY MACKENZIE, author of “The Man of Feeling.” This venerable octogenarian, who published his first work a good deal more than half a century ago, and was the darling author of our grandfathers, after having survived all the *prisca gens auctorum* among whom he spent the earlier part of his life, still lives, (and long may he live!)—a sort of literary Noah, amidst the numerous denizens of a new world.

The house marked' No. 13, was the first-built in this second New Town. It was considered a mad speculation by the people of the first New Town; and the family which first lived in the house, was considered as *out of the world* by even their Queen-Street neighbours. This was so late as 1802.

Near the western extremity, at No. 44, resides the Rev. Mr. ALISON, one of the episcopal clergymen of the city, and author of the “Essays on Taste,” besides other highly esteemed works.

The street here branching off from Heriot Row is INDIA STREET, in which (12) dwells Mr. DUNLOP, the elegant and laborious author of the

History of Fiction and of Roman literature. Mr. JOHN WATSON, one of the most eminent portrait-painters now in Edinburgh, occupies apartments at No. 29.

At the bottom of India Street lies the ROYAL CIRCUS, where, in whatever direction the spectator may turn his eye, he sees nothing but beautiful groups of modern buildings. No. 21 is the residence of Mr. JAMESON, professor of natural history, whose fame as a geognost and a mineralogical collector, is now, we believe, second to none in Europe. In one of the adjacent streets (6, Gloucester Place) dwells the equally celebrated PROFESSOR WILSON, author of "The Isle of Palms," "City of the Plague," and a series of beautiful prose fictions not sanctioned by his name.

Behind the buildings which lie to the north-west of the Royal Circus, a series of PUBLIC MARKETS is at present in the progress of erection. They are constructed after the model, and are to be conducted upon the plan, of the approved markets of Liverpool.

In the immediate neighbourhood, still farther to the west, lies STOCKBRIDGE, which gives name to a sort of village, now surround-

ed, and partly destroyed, by the encroaching limits of the rapidly-extending city. The glen here formed by the Water of Leith was, till lately, a beautiful and sequestered natural scene ; but its echoes, which formerly answered only to the melody of birds and the fall of waters, are now disturbed by the rude sound of the mechanic's hammer, and almost destroyed outright by the alterations in the character of the ground. The old citizens of Edinburgh, on visiting this scene, cannot fail to be reminded of the affecting complaint of Logan,—

“The cruel plough has razed the green,
Where, when a child, I played :
The axe hath felled the hawthorn screen,
The schoolboy's summer shade.”

A temple-like structure, erected over a mineral spring, called ST. BERNARD'S WELL, overhangs the river, about an hundred and fifty yards above Stockbridge ; and is the resort of many valetudinarians, who are said to experience benefit from drinking its waters. A cluster of handsome streets, of recent date, occupy considerable ground beyond the bridge ; and, upon the property of the late Sir Henry Rae-

burn, (one of the most talented and amiable of painters,)—also in this immediate neighbourhood—several streets are at present forming, which bid fair to rival in elegance the more central parts of the city. The extensive grounds of the DEAN, to the west of the eminence which rises beyond Stockbridge, have lately been purchased by certain enterprising builders, who design to lay them out after a novel and most felicitous plan, whereby it is provided, that each house shall be distinct from its neighbours, and surrounded entirely by a certain extent of the pleasure-grounds and shrubberies throughout which the whole are interspersed. For the convenience of this district, a bridge has been already built, a little way above that already mentioned.

Leaving Stockbridge upon the left, and passing eastwards, we arrive at ST. CUTHBERT'S CHAPEL, situated in Claremont Street, a small place of worship, with a diminutive steeple, serving as a chapel-of-ease to the populous parish of the West Church. This was first opened in November 1823.

A little way to the eastward stands the DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM, a neat building of four

stories, erected in 1824, (at an expense of £5600,) for the accommodation of upwards of an hundred unfortunate children, who here receive such instruction, in the ordinary branches of education, as can be imparted to them. It is surrounded by an open area of nearly three acres, purchased from the Governors of Heriot's Hospital.

Immediately to the east lies the EDINBURGH ACADEMY, an elegant structure, built in 1823–4, after a plan by Mr. Burn, architect, and calculated for the classical instruction of six hundred scholars. This “*patrician establishment*,” as Mr. Brougham has been pleased to term it, took its rise in the desire of the inhabitants of the New Town to have a public school for their children, in a more convenient situation, with respect to their residences, than that of the High School, which lies at a considerable distance, in the opposite quarter of the city. For the accomplishment of this object, a sort of joint-stock company was instituted; and Directors were chosen, with powers to manage the business of erecting the necessary buildings, to appoint masters in the various branches of education, and to watch over the interests of

the institution in all time coming. As both the proprietors and directors belonged to the most wealthy and *élite* classes of Edinburgh society, the features of the Academy have eventually assumed much of the liberal and aristocratic character of its patrons. The rector and one of the masters are Englishmen ; and many of the English forms of education, especially in respect of classical learning, have been adopted. The fees are much higher than usual hitherto in Scottish schools. The intellectual powers of the pupils are directed to various exercises, not formerly included in any Scottish method of education ; and a different system of rewards and punishments has been promulgated and acted upon,—the *ferula* being almost completely abjured, while it has been attempted to encourage application and good conduct, by the substitution of more generous incentives. At the first public exhibition of the classes, which took place, in July 1825, after the conclusion of the first year's session, the improved theory of the directors appeared to have been most successfully put in practice by the masters, and attended with the most beneficial effects, not only upon the memories, but

the minds, of the pupils. A small printed *brochure*, (then handed about,) containing a selection from the prize-exercises of the various classes, exhibited specimens of both Latin and English composition, highly creditable, indeed, to the talents of their juvenile authors ; and some of the boys displayed a singular degree of proficiency in the—not mere recitation, but absolute *acting*—of some well-selected pieces of English dramatic poetry.

The buildings occupied by the Academy are very elegant, and terminate the vista formed by Howe Street. The expense of the whole was £12,264. Besides rooms for the various classes, there are apartments for the occasional use of the masters ; a hall, of an oval shape, for general meetings ; and a lodge, at the outer gate, for the use of the janitor, who sells the books used by the boys, (of which the profits are appropriated to the formation and support of class-libraries,) and also such articles, of a wholesome nature, as the boys may be inclined to purchase with their *pocket-money*. The Academy is surrounded on every side by an extensive district of play-ground, which is protected by a high wall, with sheds for the

use of the boys in bad weather. The front is bounded by a low wall and rail, within which trees have been recently planted. Over the portico of the Academy, a Latin inscription denotes the name, purpose, and date of the foundation ; beneath which is the following, in Greek,—“ Η ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΕΤΗΣ ΜΗΤΗΡ,”—signifying, *Youth, the Mother of Wisdom and of Virtue.*

About an hundred yards to the east of the Edinburgh Academy, a road leads northwards, past the old village of Canonmills, which was formerly a valuable dependency upon the canons regular of the Abbey of Holyrood, from whom it derived its name. Crossing the bridge at this place, the stranger finds, upon the left hand, the castellated buildings of the OIL-GAS-WORK,* recently completed ; and here, upon

* Gas-light was not seen in Edinburgh till within the last ten years. It first appeared, *circa* 1816, in the windows of two shops upon the South Bridge, the proprietors of which had clubbed in forming a small manufactory in a cellar behind their premises, which were contiguous. The present Coal-Gas-work, at the North Back of the Canongate, was established in the year 1818, and is un-

the extensive grounds of Warriston, streets, crescents, and individual villas, are rising with astonishing rapidity. The conformation of the ground in this quarter is eminently advantageous; and the city thus makes a near approach to the plain whither King James IV proposed to remove it about three centuries ago.

By the road leading directly north from the Canonmills Bridge, the stranger is conducted to the ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,—an object highly worthy of his attention. This splendid institution, which belongs to the University, was removed from its former site, near Leith Walk, between the years 1820 and 1824, to an area, of about twelve acres, upon the grounds of Inverleith, lying at the distance of a mile from Dundas Street, and about the same distance from the sea. In its present situation,

derstood to have been a very prosperous concern. An Oil-Gas-work, the second in Great Britain, was set on foot at Leith in 1821; and the manufactory mentioned in the text was established, by joint-stock, in 1823,—Sir Walter Scott being the chairman of the committee of directors by whom its affairs are conducted.

it has the advantage of a gentle inclination to the south, and of being sheltered from the cold blasts of the sea, by the elevation of the intervening grounds. A more beautiful and gratifying object than this does not exist in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh,—so much taste has been displayed in the design of the garden, and so much scientific skill in the arrangement of the plants. The whole is surrounded by a high wall; and the necessary adjuncts of stoves, green-houses, and a class-room for the professor of botany, (who here delivers a summer course of lectures,) are all fitted up upon a scale of the utmost magnificence.—It may be worthy of notice, that the view to be obtained of the city from the Botanic Garden is exceedingly fine; and that the Observatory upon the Calton Hill gives the whole, if we may use the expression, quite a *Grecian air*.

Re-entering the city at a more easterly point, we reach Bellevue Crescent, in the centre of which a very handsome church, designated St. MARY's, has just been completed. This edifice was founded on the 15th of August 1823, the first anniversary of the entry of our gracious Sovereign into the capital and palace of his

Scottish ancestors. It has an elegant portico, supported by six columns of the Corinthian order, and a steeple, which serves to mark the situation of the church from all quarters round Edinburgh. St. Mary's is under the patronage of the magistrates; and the present minister is that elegant and popular preacher, Mr. Henry Grey.

Not far from Bellevue Church, the ancient village of BROUGHTON is still to be observed, with its irregular groups of little cottages, hemmed closely in on all hands by the encroaching limits of the wide-spread capital. This is said to be a place of great antiquity, and was once a burgh of regality, with magistrates, who had the power of life and death. The *Tolbooth*, or Mansion-House, of Broughton still stands near the centre of the village, and almost close by the side of the road. It is a stoutly built fabric, with a front to the south, and a projection running out behind, the whole consisting of two stories, whereof one is underneath the level of the ground. The main entry is in the upper storey, and in the windows the marks of stanchions are still visible; while the iron-work of a venerable pair of *jougs*, or

stocks, is yet in the possession of one of the modern inhabitants of the degraded edifice. The superiority of Broughton was yielded by the crown to the magistrates of Edinburgh, in payment of a debt contracted by Charles I with George Heriot, who furnished that prince with jewels when about to set out on his matrimonial visit to Spain, and in whose place the magistrates came as executors. To this acquisition, the magistrates added, in 1626, that of the surrounding lands. The superiority was abolished, agreeable to the jurisdiction-act of 1748,—the governors of Heriot's Hospital being allowed the compensatory sum of £486, 19s. 8d.; and Gilbert Clark, the clerk of regality for life, receiving a compensation of £120 for the loss of his office. Since then, Broughton has declined greatly in importance, and probably also in prosperity. Like Milton's lout, who was “pinched and pulled” in his dream by beautiful but wicked spirits, this drowsy awkward little village has been, within the last twenty years, surrounded and impaired by troops of handsome new houses, which seem to threaten it with speedy destruction; and only appear to be withheld from executing the dire

ful purpose of swallowing it altogether up, by the consideration of tormenting it for a little while longer with their menaces. The contrast between its low, tile-roofed cottages, narrow, unpaved, tortuous streets, and generally mean appearance, and the regular and beautiful modern streets amidst which it is placed, may afford matter of merriment to the visitor. Yet it is not many years since the citizens of Edinburgh used to send their wives and children to lodge in these miserable hovels during the summer months, for the benefit of their health,—themselves, perhaps, continuing to occupy their houses in town during the week, while attending business, and visiting their families here upon Saturday night or Sunday morning, in order to spend the day of rest in domestic happiness. Broughton could then boast of a sort of rural seclusion; for so little communication was there between the village and the city, that an old blacksmith, who lived all his life by the way-side, and died a few years ago at the age of eighty, remembered having sometimes observed only three individuals pass his smithy in the course of a whole day; and Broughton Loan (for so the road was

termed) was considered so lonely a place, even within the last forty years, that it was then (1782) the scene of a deliberate robbery and murder of the most atrocious description.*

The street which encloses Broughton upon the north, is called LONDON STREET. It is designed to continue this street eastward, and thereby to open up a direct and convenient communication with Leith Walk, which it will join, at a tangent of a few degrees, near the old Botanic Garden. Passing westwards, along London Street, we find it terminated at the ex-

* In the neighbourhood of Broughton, and almost upon the site of the present street called Picardy Place, there existed, till within the last thirty years, a row of houses, designated PICARDY, and occupied by a few weavers, who had been brought from that province of France, by the Linen Company of Scotland, and settled here, for the improvement of that manufacture. The ground-flats of these houses were used as workshops, while the upper stories were occupied by the families of the weavers; and the former had this remarkable peculiarity,—viz., that the windows, which were semicircular at top, projected a good way out at the bottom, in order to catch the descending light. The families of these ingenious mechanics are not yet altogether amalgamated with the Scottish population.

tremity by DRUMMOND PLACE, an handsome square of an oblong form, so called in honour of Provost George Drummond, the founder of the New Town, whose villa formerly stood within its area. The site of that house (which stood in the midst of a wooded park, and was entered by an avenue leading from Broughton along the line of London Street) is now occupied by a building, which, after having been for many years used as the custom-house, was converted, July 1825, into the EXCISE OFFICE. This building was at first a private mansion-house, and the residence of the far-famed General Scott, father-in-law to the present Mr. Canning. It was then called BELLEVUE, and consisted of only two stories; but, falling into the hands of the magistrates, it was increased in height, and adapted to the purpose above mentioned. The history of its erection involves a curious anecdote, which we give upon excellent authority. Some time after Sir Lawrence Dundas had built his beautiful hotel in St. Andrew's Square, he happened to have a run of bad luck in playing with General Scott, who is well known to have been one of the most experienced gamblers in Europe, and

to have amassed at least half a million by play. After Sir Lawrence had lost all his ready cash, and was driven to a sort of *non-plus*, his opponent proposed to stake £30,000 against Sir Lawrence's new house, in which, we believe, they were then sitting. This proposal was accepted by the desperate baronet, but was attended with no better fortune than the preceding stakes ; and the property of that beautiful mansion was in a moment transferred to his successful antagonist. It was afterwards arranged, however, that Sir Lawrence should retain his house, upon condition that he should be at the expense of building another equally good, and suitable to the taste and convenience of General Scott. The mansion of Bellevue was the result of this arrangement.

From Drummond Place two handsome streets diverge northwards. In the most easterly of these (8, Scotland Street) dwells the celebrated painter, Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN, whose brush has been so patriotically and so successfully devoted to that noblest of all objects, the illustration of the history of his native country.

At the west end of Drummond Place, the line of London Street is continued westwards

by GREAT KING STREET, which ranks as almost the most beautiful in Edinburgh. Here, at No. 23, resides Mr. R. P. GILLIES, the well-known, though very modest, author of several works of talent,—a lawyer, a poet, and a translator from the German, in which language and literature he is eminently skilled.

Leaving Great King Street at the centre, and passing a little way up DUNDAS STREET, we arrive at NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, "which intersects it from east to west. In the eastern division of this street, at No. 25, dwells the celebrated Mr. J. G. LOCKHART, the son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, and at present by far the most promising young author in Scotland. The Spanish Ballads of this gentleman contain beauties with which the public ought to be better acquainted ; and his series of anonymous novels, of which "*Reginald Dalton*" stands at the head, would no doubt be the best of their age or kind, but for the accidental pre-occupation of that rank by those of his mysterious fore-runner.

From this point, threading a few streets towards the south-east, the stranger arrives in YORK PLACE, at the eastern extremity of which

stands ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL, one of the places of worship belonging to those of the Episcopal persuasion, who are not attached either to the English or Scottish Episcopal establishments ; and of this chapel the Rev. Mr. Alison, already mentioned, and the Rev. Mr. Morehead, are the ministers. St. Paul's was built (1816–18) in the Gothic style of architecture which prevailed in the time of Henry VI, and of which a specimen may be seen in King's College Chapel, Cambridge. The building, which consists of a nave, with four octagon towers at the corners, and is very elegantly fitted up within, cost £12,000.

Not far from St. Paul's stands the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL, which was built in 1813, at an expense of £8000. From the relative situation of the surrounding buildings, the sides of this chapel are, in a great measure, hid ; and it is only the east end, which is exposed to the street, that exhibits any ornament. The organ of this chapel is very fine ; and above the altar is an excellent painting, by Vandyke, the subject of which is a dead Saviour. The amiable and respected Bishop

Cameron is the present incumbent. The Roman Catholics possess no other place of worship in Edinburgh, though, previous to the erection of this fabric, they had two small chapels in Blackfriars' Wynd. The total number of souls in Scotland belonging to this religious persuasion, is not supposed to exceed 27,000.

The large building contiguous to the Roman Catholic Chapel, upon the south, is at present occasionally opened for dramatic purposes, and is called the CALEDONIAN THEATRE. Since its foundation, about forty years ago, it has been once and again a forum, a ball-room, a church, a theatre, a place for the assemblage of political meetings, and sometimes all these things simultaneously. We now reach Leith Walk, and command a prospect of nearly the whole of that splendid way, with Leith, the coast, and the sea.

Proceeding westwards, along Catherine Street and Leith Street, we again reach the Register House; but, before concluding this walk, it will be necessary to review certain points connected with the Calton Hill.

The REGENT BRIDGE, which connects that eminence with the neighbouring ridge upon

which the New Town is built, was projected so early as 1788, when a provision for its construction formed part of the act then procured for the erection of the South Bridge. But it was only in 1815 that this project was reduced to practice ; and it was owing, in a great measure, to the exertions of Sir William Rae, (present Lord Advocate, then Sheriff-Depute,) and Sir John Marjoribanks, then Lord Provost, that we owe the ultimate accomplishment of this noble and most elaborate undertaking. Mr. Elliot was the architect of public works, and Mr. Stevenson the surveyor and engineer.

Part of this grand scheme was the erection of a healthy PUBLIC JAIL, which had long been felt as a great desideratum in the city. Such a building was accordingly erected, after a Gothic model, upon the south side of the approach,—part of the fabric overhanging a precipitous rock, and forming a most conspicuous and picturesque object as seen from any point in the neighbourhood. The buildings now finished are, however, intended ultimately to be used only as a criminal jail ; and a place of incarceration for debtors is designed to be erect-

ed to the east of Bridewell, where the towers of the barrier gate-way have been already built. These three distinct public buildings will then form one regular group.

At the eastern extremity of the Waterloo Buildings, a broad stair-case gives access to the gradually ascending foot-path which winds round the hill. In traversing this, the scene is changed at every step. One by one are presented, in succession, the Forth, with the mountains beyond it,—Leith and its shipping,—Musselburgh Bay, said to resemble that of Naples, and the fine crescent of land, terminated so happily by North Berwick Law,—Arthur's Seat, and Salisbury Crags, with the towers of the old Palace, and its huge quadrangular court, lying close under the eye of the spectator,—the massive and high-piled buildings of the Old Town, terminated by the Castle, and backed by the blue ranges of the Pentland Hills,—and, finally, as the spectator returns towards the point from which he set out, he commands a view of the New Town, with the minarets of the Register House, the Grecian building on the mound, and, over all the endless range of the new streets, the fine

wooded heights of Corstorphine swelling in the west. This promenade, in its successive richness of beautiful objects, and the numerous moral associations which they are calculated to excite, can scarcely have an equal.

Upon the *apex* of the Calton Hill stands NELSON'S MONUMENT, one of the most prominent ornaments of the city,—completed in 1815. Its form is that of a pillar, rising from a broad basement, which is flanked by embattled towers, and divided within into several apartments, which were originally intended for the accommodation of disabled seamen. Over the entrance is the Nelson crest, and the stern of the San Joseph, in bas-relief. The rooms are neatly furnished, and decorated with many tributes, which the sister arts have consecrated to the memory of this unrivalled naval hero ; and are occupied as a place of public entertainment, somewhat betwixt a confectioner's shop and a tavern, no intoxicating liquors being allowed to be sold ; although this restriction is often evaded, by dinner-parties furnishing their own wines. Many strangers visit the monument, for the sake of the view which is to be commanded from the top.

A lower ridge of the hill is occupied by

the OBSERVATORY, an elegant Grecian edifice, erected, in 1818, by the Astronomical Institution of Edinburgh, the members of which have the right of admission, and of introducing their friends, either personally or by order. The former Observatory still stands a little to the westwards, and is easily accessible to strangers, many of whom pay a small sum to the keeper, in order to see the camera obscura, with which the top story is fitted up, and which is well worthy of a visit. The monument to the late Professor Playfair, we understand, is shortly to be placed within the grounds belonging to this institution ; and it is to be hoped that the wall, which at present conceals the new building, will at the same time be removed.—Upon a broad and level space, north of Nelson's Monument, lies the foundation stone of the NATIONAL MONUMENT, there deposited, August 1822. The necessary funds for the erection of this magnificent structure are not yet collected ; but it is expected that its patrons will soon see fit to commence the operations ; a measure which will certainly have an immediate effect upon the subscription-list.—Upon the declivity to the south of Nelson's Monument, the foundation-stone of a new High School was laid, July 1825.

THE SOUTH SIDE.

THE SOUTH SIDE.

AGAIN starting from the Register House, and traversing the North Bridge, we reach the southern districts of the city by the line of communication called the SOUTH BRIDGE, which is of more modern date, and less striking in external appearance, than that which joins the Old and New Town. It was erected in 1788, and consists of twenty-two arches, all of which are concealed by the buildings along its sides, with the exception of one, near the centre, which has been necessarily left open, on account of the COWGATE,—a low, narrow, and very ancient street, passing transversely beneath.—Some of the most ancient lanes in the city were demolished, in order to make way for this bridge and street; but the sums which the

magistrates paid for the old property, were amply repaid by the high prices which they obtained for pieces of building-ground, amounting, in some cases, it is said, to £150,000 per acre. As the erection of the North Bridge preceded and facilitated the extension of the city in that quarter, the formation of this communication, on the contrary, was the tardy and unavoidable consequence of the great extension upon the south, which had taken place many years before.

Previous to the era of 1760, only one or two suburban streets existed in this quarter, besides a few villas, interspersed widely throughout the fields. At that period, the disposition to burst beyond the walls, which the inhabitants of Edinburgh then, for the first time, evinced, found the most natural vent in this direction, as the nature of the intermediate valley was such, as to offer the means of a ready, though not very convenient, communication. Accordingly, when an enterprising builder erected a few comfortable and *self-contained* houses in Brown's Square and George's Square, the Scottish aristocracy descended from their garrets in the Old Town, and soon rendered this a very fashionable dis-

trict. Meanwhile, the commencement of the New Town was retarded by many natural and artificial difficulties ; and, long before any progress had been made, the *South Side* exhibited a good number of streets and squares, tasteful enough as to architecture, though unfortunately laid out after no general plan, and surrounded closely, on every hand, by the mean and obscure accommodations proper to a suburb. This design also received considerable encouragement from its accidental propinquity to the College : and even now, after all the great have left it for the New Town, it retains a kind of dignity, from containing the residences of some of the Professors. Of these, and other professional personages connected with the University, besides a liberal admixture of the better sorts of tradesmen, the population of the Southern Districts are at this day composed.

A few paces beyond the open arch of the South Bridge, there is a recess in the buildings to the right, termed ADAM'S SQUARE. The few houses which compose this row, (for such it is,) were designed by the celebrated architect of the Adelphi, and were among the first

erected since the introduction of modern architecture into Scotland. Previous to the erection of the bridge, they had gardens in front, and were inhabited by noblemen and high official dignitaries ; and it is to be lamented, that the consideration in which they were held, occasioned an unfortunate deformity in the general design of the South Bridge. The central house being the favourite and admired residence of Lord President Dundas, that gentleman objected to the level of the South Bridge Street being made gradual and uniform all the way between its extremities, as that would have placed the front-door of his house a few feet below the line of the street. Upon this account, the level, instead of rising, is made to descend, between the Tron Church and Adam's Square, and from thence to make a sudden and most inconvenient rise towards the south. It is painful to reflect upon the public good being thus sacrificed, for the temporary gratification of an individual ; and it greatly enhances our chagrin, when we remember, that, as might have been anticipated, the intrusion of the commercial classes, soon after, rendered the house in question perfectly worthless as the re-

sidence of a gentleman. Indeed, not many years after, the President's house was occupied by an ironmonger; which gave occasion to an epigram, in the shape of an inscription, supposed to be placed above the door.—

“This house, in which a Vulcan dwells,
A Lawyer did possess.—
Thus did the Iron Age, of yore,
Succeed the Age of Brass !”

The first carriage which passed along the South Bridge, after its completion, was a hearse. And it is somewhat remarkable, that it contained the body of an Adam's-Square lady, who, having contemplated the progress of the bridge with much interest, used to declare, that she was determined, if possible, to be the first person to go across it; and that she was resolved to do so in a carriage, by way of honouring so great and so useful a public work.

An opening to the left here leads to the Royal Infirmary, the High School, and other public buildings.

The ROYAL INFIRMARY, which is a large plain building, with wings, owed its foundation chiefly to the exertions of Provost George

Drummond, and partly to those of the first Dr. Monro. So active was the first of these great men in favour of this most useful institution, that, for many years before he had collected sufficient funds for the undertaking, he is said to have gone, every Saturday forenoon, to the Cross, to beg contributions from the merchants there assembled. He also engaged his celebrated sister, the preaching Quakeress, in its behalf; and that singular woman actually collected large sums, both in England and Scotland, towards the foundation. Between the era of 1721, when the project was first started, and 1738, when it was founded, a sum considerably more than £3000 had been collected; and this was much increased during the progress of the building, which was finished in 1745.* The fabric, though certainly more use-

* It is very remarkable, that though the General Assembly ordered a general collection in all the parish-churches in the kingdom, very little money was thus obtained, owing to the supineness of the clergymen, not one in eleven of whom paid the least attention to the injunction. People of all other descriptions and professions came forward with gratuitous aid in favour of the work; some

ful than ornamental, was formerly considered supremely elegant, and always attracted the admiration of rustic strangers. In the hall there is a well-executed bust of Drummond by Nollekins. The affairs of the institution are managed by a certain number of respectable citizens; and the patients (composed of the destitute poor) are attended gratuitously by the members of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, to whose advancement in the study of their professions the experience thus acquired materially contributes. It is to be lamented, that the funds of the Infirmary are but barely sufficient for its necessities,—though it

contributing money, other materials, and many artizans personal labour. For many years past, it has been customary annually to make a collection in all the churches in the country for the benefit of the institution; and these are usually considerable. Upon one occasion, in Edinburgh, a new novel, by the Author of Waverley, happening to be published upon the Saturday before a collection, the total amount was found to be about two hundred pounds, or a third part less than usual; and this was attributed, we believe justly, to the great defection occasioned among the church-goers by the charms of the *new novel!*

is said that the yearly income usually amounts to £5000. There are several auxiliary establishments connected with the Royal Infirmary, such as the Public Dispensary, the Lying-in Hospital, &c. A new Infirmary, upon a somewhat different system, has been recently projected, and will probably be soon carried into execution.

Opposite to the Infirmary stands LADY YESTER'S CHURCH, the present incumbent of which is Dr. John Lee, a very elegant preacher, and most erudite scholar. The students attending the University have a right to a gallery in this church, set apart for their accommodation.

The HIGH SCHOOL is situated in the midst of a considerable area, at the east end of Infirmary Street. The present building was founded *anno* 1771, in place of a structure which had been built two centuries before. This spot was the cemetery of the Black Friars' Monastery, which stood opposite to the head of the High School Wynd, and of which the revenues and lands were appropriated, at the Reformation, by the magistrates of Edinburgh, who partly employed them for this useful purpose. Previous to 1578, when the High School was

founded, not only a “principal grammer scule,” but also several schools for the instruction of youth in the Latin language, existed in Edinburgh, as appears by an act of Town-Council, dated 1519, forbidding the citizens to send their children to be taught at any other school than that established by the magistrates. This edict also forbade the learning of any other accomplishments than what might be derived from the “Grace-buke, Prymer, and Plane Donatt.” After the institution of the High School, this limited system of education was extended to the use of Dunbar’s Rudiments, Corderius, Erasmus, Cæsar, Terence, Ovid, Virgil, Sallust, Cicero, and Buchanan’s Psalms ; and there were then a master and an usher.— At present, the teachers are, a rector and four masters. Each of the latter has a separate class, which he conducts, four years in progression, till fitted for the more advanced instructions of the rector. The number of scholars at present in attendance is about seven hundred.

In SURGEONS’ SQUARE, behind the High School, are situated SURGEONS’ HALL, the Hall

of the ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY, and various Medical and Anatomical Lecture-rooms.

The present buildings of the UNIVERSITY form an oblong square, of which the front is turned to the east. They were founded in 1789, and are only just now at the period of completion. They enclose a quadrangular court; and contain not only lecture-rooms, but houses for a few of the Professors, and extensive accommodations for the library. The entry is from the east, under a magnificent portico, supported by four enormous columns of the Doric order, each hewn out of one solid stone; and the whole would have an effect, probably unequalled by any similar building, if it were not for the near approach of the houses on all sides, which precludes the possibility of a full or commanding view of its proportions.

The University of Edinburgh only dates from 1581-3, though, before that period, the city was not destitute of a nursery of learning. The design of its institution met at first with decided opposition from the Archiepiscopal Chancellors of Glasgow and St. Andrew's, and the ecclesiastics of the see and college of Aber-

deen. But the hierachal power of these personages being happily destroyed about this time, the magistrates of Edinburgh, who were the projectors and patrons of the University, overcame all difficulties ; and having previously received a considerable legacy, which had been bequeathed to them for this purpose, and having purchased the precinct of the collegiate church of St. Mary in the Fields, proceeded, in 1581, to found the College, which has since become by far the most considerable in Scotland. The space now occupied by the University buildings, then contained an irregular assortment of smaller edifices, whereof that belonging to, and inhabited by, the noble family of Hamilton, was the largest ; and the rest were those which had been occupied, before the Reformation, by the clerical officials of the church above mentioned. It does not appear that many new fabrics of importance were erected ; for when Rollock, professor of humanity, began his prelections in 1583, it was “in the lower hall of Hamilton House.” In 1586, however, the College was enclosed within high walls.

The design of the University at first received

considerable encouragement from the foundation of a library, which had been bequeathed, in 1580, by Mr. Clement Little, advocate, for the use of the citizens of Edinburgh, and which the magistrates immediately appropriated to the service of their infant seminary. This collection of books was more numerous than valuable ; but it afterwards received some important accessions. The celebrated Drummond of Hawthornden enriched its shelves with many useful works ; and it may be mentioned, in particular, that a few of the early editions of Shakespeare's separate plays were among the number. The predominance of old musty *folios* in the College library, arising from the particular nature of these early donations, gives the whole a venerable, ecclesiastical air, very different from the smartness and splendour of the comparatively modern *Bibliotheca Facultatis Juridicae*.

In 1617, when the teachers in the University were at least six, James VI, who then visited his native kingdom, condescended to become, as it were, its *god-father*, desiring it thenceforward to be designated “the College of King James ;” and, in addition to this kind-

ness, gave it what he called “a royal *god-bairn gift*,” in the shape of certain lands and tithes in the counties of Lothian and Fife. After this, it received various lesser benefactions.—Cromwell bestowed upon it an annuity of £200 sterling; and the example of that usurper was followed by William III, who endowed it with £300 yearly, to be paid out of his treasury and bishops’ rents in Scotland. The latter grant was, however, greatly curtailed by Queen Anne.

Till about the beginning of the last century, little was taught in the University besides the dead languages, the divinity and philosophy of the schools, and some branches of mathematics then in general use. Since that era, many other professorships have been founded, by the magistrates, the crown, or private individuals. In 1721, was founded the present school of medicine, which, owing to a fortunate succession of able professors, has risen to such eminence, as entitles it to take the first place amongst all the departments of learning taught in the University.

At the era when the city of Edinburgh showed a disposition to improve its external appear-

ance, the College, then in a very prosperous condition, was not slow in exhibiting a similar tendency. In 1768, a proposal was made public, for rebuilding the fabric of the College after a regular plan ; but the American war prevented the immediate execution of this design. In 1785, the magistrates set on foot a subscription for erecting a new structure, according to a design which had been prepared by Mr. Adam ; and considerable sums being soon obtained, part of the old buildings were pulled down, and the foundation-stone of the present edifice was laid, with masonic honours, in November 1789. The new buildings proceeded rapidly for some time ; but were stopped, ere the whole quadrangle was more than half finished, by the deficiency of funds. In this condition, without any part of the edifice being fitted up for use, the whole remained till 1815, when a grant of £10,000 annually, for their completion, was obtained from Parliament.— Since that period, the fabric has been brought nearly to perfection, under the superintendence of commissioners appointed by the national legislature,—Mr. Adam's original plan being considerably varied, according to some im-

provements suggested by that eminent and classical architect, Mr. W. H. Playfair.

The principal object in the University, worthy the attention of strangers, is the MUSEUM.—This is situated in the western side of the quadrangle; and tickets of admission (price 2s. 6d.) are procured at No. 62 South Bridge Street, almost opposite to the grand entry of the College.—When the present professor succeeded to the chair of natural history, he found the ruins of a former museum, which had been founded by Sir Andrew Balfour in 1694, lying, in a state of hopeless decay, in the lecture-room and another miserable apartment. Out of this collection he retained the few articles still in a state of preservation,—to which, with a generosity which usually accompanies the enthusiasm of science, he added his own private collection. In a few years thereafter, the Museum was enriched by the valuable mineralogical cabinet of the late Dr. Thomson of Naples. These additions induced the patrons to order the range of building occupied by the professor of natural history to be completely remodelled, and fitted up with taste and elegance. But the Museum, thus en-

larged, was soon found to be too small ; and great anxiety was expressed for the building and fitting up of the apartments allotted to it in the new College. This has been accomplished ; and the new Museum, which is the most elegant part of the College, is now open to the public. It consists in two great rooms, each 90 feet long, and about 30 feet wide, besides smaller side-apartments, external galleries, and a lecture-room. The upper room is lighted from the roof by three great lanterns, and from the side by three great windows. An elegant gallery runs round the whole apartment. The walls of the room are everywhere covered with splendid cases, covered with plate-glass, and containing objects of natural history. The cases in the gallery contain the magnificent collection of birds, purchased for the College from M. Dufresne of Paris,—the cases under the gallery contain the valuable collection of birds previously acquired. The entire collection of birds consists of about three thousand specimens, the most extensive in Great Britain, and not exceeded by any on the Continent. In the middle of the room, the floor of which is of iron, and painted, are magnificent tables, cover-

ed with plate-glass, and containing very fine collections of shells, insects, and corals. The *lower external gallery*, a very beautiful apartment, 50 feet in length, contains the great collection of insects, and a cabinet of minerals, for the use of the students of mineralogy. The *upper external gallery* is 90 feet long, divided into three apartments of great beauty, and lighted from the roof by elegant lanterns. The smaller apartments contain preparations in comparative anatomy,—the middle and larger room is appropriated for minerals. Another large room is to contain a collection of all the rocks and minerals of the British empire, arranged in geographical order.

The Museum of Anatomical Preparations is particularly valuable. It is under the charge of the professor of anatomy, and has been chiefly formed by the father and grandfather of the present Professor Monro.—There is also a collection of Anatomical Preparations belonging to the professor of midwifery.

Besides the numerous acquisitions lately made, the College Museum is daily receiving great additions from our adventurous countrymen who reside abroad; and Professor Jame-

son, who overlooks no circumstance tending to the improvement of the science which he so successfully teaches, drew up, some years ago, instructions for preserving objects in natural history, which, by the favour of government, were transmitted to our residents at foreign courts and in the colonies ; and which will, no doubt, produce an ample supply of specimens.

The COLLEGE LIBRARY is second to the Museum as an object of curiosity. The greater part of the books are yet contained in the original building, which stands at the east end of the interior square formed by the new buildings. This old fabric contains one room of considerable size, in which the most venerable part of the library is arranged in presses with trellised doors ; and the more modern books are at present kept in the adjoining halls of the new building, which have been fitted up for their accommodation in a temporary manner. New apartments for the library are at present building upon the southern side of the quadrangle, which is expected to be finished by 1827. There are to be several apartments. The lower flat of the building is to consist in

two large halls, one for public meetings, and the other for the transaction of the principal business of the library, and which is also to contain that class of books most in demand.—The grand upper hall, which will have lights from the roof, is to contain the ornamental part of the library, and to be splendidly fitted up; and at each end there is to be a smaller room, of a circular shape.—The library at present contains 700,000 volumes, besides some curiosities; such as, the original contract of Queen Mary with the Dauphin of France,—a Bohemian protest against the Council of Constance, for burning John Huss, in 1417, with 150 seals of Bohemian and Moravian noblemen appended,—a few illuminated missals,—some oriental manuscripts,—a beautiful copy of Fordoun's *Scotichronicon*, and an entire copy of the Aberdeen Breviary, which was the second book printed in Scotland. The library has a right to one copy of every book entered at Stationers' Hall.

The University is attended annually by between two and three thousand students, of whom a considerable portion are foreigners. The students are not distinguished by any pe-

culiarity of dress; and they reside where they choose, throughout the town, without being under the surveillance of their teachers.

In Edinburgh, besides the University, the High School, and the Edinburgh Academy, there are many private lecture-rooms and schools, for classical and medical instruction, superintended by able teachers.

Before quitting the College, it may be proper to point out to the stranger, that the murder of the unfortunate Darnley was perpetrated upon the spot now occupied by the south-east corner of the University buildings,—that being the site of the prebendary's house of the Kirk of Field, by the explosion of which that infamous deed was effected.

Previous to the southern extension of the city, and the renovation of the College buildings, the ground immediately to the south of that edifice was an open park, containing only one villa,—belonging to Sir John Nicolson. The park having been afterwards laid out in building-ground, the name of the proprietor was commemorated by the street and square erected upon it. The project of the South Bridge was for a considerable time re-

tarded by the legal difficulties experienced in removing the sepulchral monument of this family, which stood, in the shape of a column, within the line of the proposed street, nearly upon the spot where it is intersected by Drummond street. As an instance of the satirical spirit which so often goes to indecorous lengths amongst our countrymen, it is worth recording, that some time after the death of Sir John Nicolson, which was vulgarly supposed to have been occasioned by the *morbus pedicularis*, a wretched wit, in allusion to that circumstance, contrived, during the night, to add the significant figure of a certain insect to the armorial bearings of the poor gentleman's escutcheon ; and, what is very remarkable, this seems to have been considered a tolerable joke sixty years since.

The numerous streets and villas which have of late years arisen to the south of the College, though, in general, elegant and comfortable, are not varied by many objects worthy of particular attention. In the line of Nicolson Street, the stranger may see a well-conducted and most meritorious institution for the benefit of the INDUSTRIOUS BLIND, — the ORIGINAL ANTI-

BURGHER MEETING-HOUSE, of which the minister is the celebrated biographer of John Knox,—Dr. Jamieson's Chapel, a somewhat handsome Gothic edifice,—and two Chapels of Ease, in connection with the parish-church of St. Cuthbert's.

Reverting to Adam's Square, we now pass westwards, along North College Street, and thus reach the spot where, upon the 15th of August, 1771, our country's boast, Sir Walter Scott, first saw the light. Though the house does not now exist, and all the neighbouring localities have been altered, we are fortunately enabled, through the personal kindness of this illustrious individual, to point out, at least, the *precise spot*; and even that, we have no doubt, will hereafter be visited by many a fanciful enthusiast. About a hundred paces westward from South Bridge Street, and about thirty paces from the north-west corner of the College, a lane, called the *College Wynd*, (formerly the chief avenue leading to the seat of learning,) descends towards the Cowgate. It was at the head of this lane, and upon the east side, that there formerly stood a house, consisting of three stories, whereof the two upper flats were the

property and the abode of Mr. Walter Scott, writer to the signet, the father of the poet.—Here Sir Walter was born. The area of the house is now partly enclosed within the fences of a wood-yard, and is partly left vacant by the open line of North College Street. Shortly after Sir Walter's birth, his father removed to a more elegant mansion upon the west side of George's Square, where he lived during his attendance at the High School, and till he passed as an advocate, when he found it necessary to take up his own abode in the New Town. Mr. Scott, *senior*, let his old house successively to two different Scottish gentlemen ; and he received the full value of it when it was found necessary to destroy it, in order to make way for the new buildings of the College.

Pursuing the line of North College Street, we pass the TRADES' MAIDEN HOSPITAL, a charitable institution, of which the purpose is expressed by the name ; and successively reach Argyle Square and Brown's Square, the last of which acquires no inconsiderable interest from its connection with the novel entitled “Redgauntlet.”

Crossing the Candlemaker Row, a mean sub-

urban street, we enter GREY-FRIARS' CHURCH-YARD, the principal burying-ground in Edinburgh. The graves and monuments of Sir George Mackenzie, Allan Ramsay, Principal Robertson, Colin Maclaurin, Dr. Hugh Blair, and various other distinguished personages, are here to be seen. Some of these are well executed. There is also a monument to the unfortunate Presbyterians of the second Charles's time. This burying-ground was originally the garden belonging to a small company of Observantines or Grey Friars, who were imported into Scotland by James I, in order to undertake a seminary of learning, established in a house opposite to the bottom of the West Bow. A church was erected in the burying-ground, *anno* 1612; and in 1718, upon the steeple of this edifice being blown up by gunpowder, a new church, as large as the first, was added in an uniform style of architecture. These are respectively called the OLD and NEW GREY-FRIARS' CHURCHES. Of the former, Principal Robertson and Dr. Erskine, formerly the leaders, the one of the moderate, and the latter of the more strict party of the Church of Scotland, were for a long time the joint

clergymen ; and Dr. Inglis, one of the present ministers, is the esteemed successor of Dr. Robertson in his arduous extra-official charge.

At the head of the Candlemaker Row stands Bristo Port, one of the gates of Edinburgh when a fortified city. A considerable portion of the old city-wall yet remains attached to this port, and extends, in angular sweep, round the CHARITY WORK-HOUSE, an ORPHAN HOSPITAL, and the former Lunatic Asylum of Edinburgh.—Passing through the Port, with the former of these buildings upon the right, and the latter upon the left, we reach the head of the MEADOW WALK, which is deserving of some attention, as the only promenade exclusively such in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh. It consists in one straight walk, about half a mile in length, lined by rows of stately elms, and two circuitous walks, which branch off at the sides, and inclose a meadow of about fifty-five acres, in which the Company of Archers exercise at stated periods. To the east of the Meadow Walk lies George's Square, in which (No. 4,) resides Dr. John Jamieson, the indefatigable compiler of the dictionary of our native language.—To the south-west of the Meadow,

lie Bruntsfield Links, an extensive common, to which the citizens of Edinburgh resort, in order to play at their favourite game of golf; and the *Hare-Stane*, in which King James IV fixed his standard previous to his march to Flodden Field, is still to be seen fixed into a wall skirting the road which leads out of this common at the extreme corner.

The chief objects in the neighbourhood of the Meadows are, Heriot's Hospital, Watson's Hospital, the Merchants' Maiden Hospital, and some other charitable establishments.

HERIOT'S HOSPITAL, a noble fabric, owes its formation to the celebrated George Heriot, jeweller and banker to James VI, who, at his death in 1624, left about £25,000 to the magistrates of Edinburgh, "for the maintenance, relief, and bringing up of so many poor and fatherless boys, freemen's sons, of the town of Edinburgh, as the sum should be sufficient for." It does not appear that he contemplated the erection of a new edifice, but the conversion of one already built into the purpose designed. This was "his large messuage or tenement at the foot of Gray's Close, in the Cowgate," which still exists as the northern

part of the quadrangle termed the Mint. But as this fabric, though large, was not considered by Heriot's executors as convenient, a new structure was founded, in 1628, upon part of the lands of High Riggs for which they paid the sum of 7650 Scottish merks. This noble pile of building was erected, it is said, after the plan of Inigo Jones ; though, upon examination of all the works attributed by the historian of the arts to this celebrated Danish architect, Heriot's Hospital does not appear among the number. It bears, however, great resemblance to the house of Bog an Gicht, (the seat of the Gordons,) as represented in Slezer's *Theatrum Scoticæ*. “There is a tradition, that the original plan was considerably altered, to suit the taste of Dr. Walter Balcanqual, who appears to have been the most active of the executors under Heriot's last will, and to whose wisdom he intrusted the care of drawing up articles, or statutes, for the regulation of the Hospital. The building consists of a quadrangle, with large square towers at each angle. The north front has a central tower, higher than the rest, under which an archway leads to the inner court, which is adorned with

a statue of the founder. Upon the birth-day of the founder, the children enjoy a holiday, and display much skill and taste in decorating with flowers the effigy of their benefactor. The south front also presents a circular tower, with Gothic windows, which serve to light a handsome chapel," the fine old carved work of which was of late years tastefully white-washed by the magistrates. "The style of architecture is of that mixed sort which began to prevail about the reign of Elizabeth, and of which Northumberland House, in the Strand, is one among many other examples. It is said, that Dr. Balcanqual insisted that the architraves and ornaments of each particular window should differ, in some particular or other, from those of all the rest ; but such was the skill and management of the architect, that though these distinctions can easily be observed on close examination, the front, viewed as a whole, presents the appearance of perfect uniformity.*

* It appears, upon minute examination of the various architraves, that there *are* two like each other.—The monogram over the main gateway, in which all the letters of

Handsome gardens and green lawns are attached to the establishment, which were once used as public walks. Dr. Pitcairn lays several of the scenes of his satirical drama, called ‘The Assembly,’ written soon after the Revolution, in Heriot’s gardens. But these promenades have been long abolished.

“Soon after this splendid building was finished, the great civil war broke out, and the first inmates of *Heriot’s Work*, as it is” popularly and not improperly “called, were the sick and wounded of Cromwell’s army, when he took possession of Edinburgh in 1650, after the battle of Dunbar.” To this day, we believe, some of the iron caps, buff sword-belts, and high-heeled ball-proof boots of these bold dragoons, remain in the lumber-rooms of the hospital. The house “continued to be occupied as a military hospital till 1658, when Monk, then anxious to ingratiate himself with the Scottish nation, removed its military inhabit-

George Heriot’s name are distinctly inscribed within the limits of one ordinary character, is a curiosity worthy of attention.

ants, to make room for those for whom the building had been erected. Thirty boys were admitted into the hospital, 11th April 1659, and ten more on the 8th of August following. The number maintained has since varied according to the funds of the establishment, and amounts now to one hundred and eighty.

"A short time after the Restoration, the youthful community of Heriot's Hospital is said to have incurred the censure of the existing powers, on the following whimsical occasion.—The test was at that time imposed on all persons in public offices; and our readers cannot have forgotten, that the Earl of Argyll was involved in a most oppressive trial and conviction for high treason, not because he refused that oath, but because he took it with the qualifying phrase, 'so far as the said oath was consistent with itself and with the protestant religion.'—Even 'iron-witted clowns and unrespective boys' could see and ridicule the absurd reason which construed this reservation into a crime. The boys of Heriot's Hospital are said to have voted, that the large mastiff, kept for the protection of the garden, enjoyed an office of public trust; and, accordingly, they tendered him

the test-oath, written fairly out on a sheet of paper; which the dog having smelled to, did reject the same. It was a second time tendered to the hospital Cerberus, having been previously buttered over; upon which, as the dog licked the writing over, he fell under the censure of taking the oath with a reservation; and was only saved from the death of a traitor by the intervention of his comrade, the two-legged porter. The thing is said to have made some noise at the time; and, as raillery is never so sorely felt as when it is deserved, the magistrates are supposed to have made the young wags smart for their jest.” *

According to the will of the founder, the education of the boys was limited to “reading and writing Scots distinctly, and casting all manner of accounts,—as also the Latin Rudiments, but no farther;” and it was, therefore, for a long period, customary to send those who wished to have a more classical education to the High School. But the statute having been justifiably broken in this particular, Latin, Greek,

* Sir W. Scott’s “Provincial Antiquities,” p. 100.

mathematics, &c., are now taught in the house, by teachers appointed for the purpose. The boys who wish to follow learned professions, are, upon leaving the Hospital, put to College, with an annual allowance of £30 for four years.—The boys who are bound out to trades are allowed £10 yearly, and the sum of £50, to enable them to set up in business, at the expiry of their apprenticeships.

It is generally allowed, that the internal management of the Hospital, under its various treasurers, and as controlled by the magistrates and ministers of Edinburgh, has been highly creditable; and it would, perhaps, be difficult to show an establishment of the kind, comprehending so much of external grandeur and of real utility, as *Heriot's Work*.

Immediately to the south of George Heriot's Hospital is a similar, but inferior and more modern, establishment, termed WATSON'S HOSPITAL. This was founded in 1738, and the building cost £5000. It is designed for nearly the same purposes, and instituted upon the same principles, with its more wealthy neighbour; and provides accommodation, maintenance, and most liberal education, for eighty

boys. George Watson, the founder, was an accountant in Edinburgh, and died in 1723, leaving £12,000 for the purpose of erecting the Hospital.

To the west of Watson's Hospital lies the MERCHANTS' MAIDEN HOSPITAL, a modern building, in the Grecian style, giving accommodation, &c., to about eighty young women, the daughters of merchant-burgesses of Edinburgh.

GILLESPIE'S HOSPITAL, a modern charitable institution for the maintenance of decayed individuals of both sexes, lies considerably to the westward of all the above hospitals, near the head of Bruntsfield Links.

To the west of Heriot's Hospital, a great number of buildings have been erected within the last four years ; and the Basin of the Union Canal has already collected around it the rudiments of a large town.

The GRASSMARKET lies to the north of Heriot's Hospital, and was formerly the *arena* of the whole markets for live-stock ; but the sheep-market has been lately removed to a field near the Canal Basin. The corn-market is also held in the Grassmarket, which continues still to be

the chief resort of the rustic visitors of the city. Near the eastern extremity of its oblong area, at about an equal distance from all the houses around, is the site of the old city gallows, which is still marked by a peculiar arrangement of the stones in the pavement. This is the scene of some of the most interesting incidents in the Heart of Mid-Lothian, of which we need not remind the reader. The unhappy Porteous was hanged by the populace, upon a dyer's pole, at the south side of the street, opposite to the gallows-stone.

From the north-east corner of the Grassmarket, the stranger may ascend the crooked and steep street called the WEST Bow. The houses here are very ancient; and this may be called the *Little Britain* of Edinburgh. One of the buildings is said to be co-eval with Flodden Field;—another is shown, now a wool-warehouse, in which the inhabitants of Edinburgh formerly enjoyed the pleasures of the “light fantastic toe;”—the former being upon the east, and the latter upon the west side of the *uppermost turn*, where, also, there formerly hung a gate of the city.

Upon gaining the top of the ascent, the

stranger finds himself at a place which he has already visited (p. 71;) and as this is the centre of a venerable district, every feature of which is soon to be altered, we shall here terminate our "Walks," with a brief prospective notice of the most magnificent series of improvements ever planned for the advantage and embellishment of our northern metropolis.

The leading objects of these plans are, to render accessible this secluded, but important, part of the Old Town, and to facilitate the intercourse between all parts of the city, and between the city and the country around. The level of the street is to be lowered about twenty feet; and, while a direct opening is to be made through the building at the head of the Earthen Mound, two bridges are to communicate between the Lawnmarket and the southern and western suburbs of the city.

In the accomplishment of this project, all the present buildings upon the Castlehill, the upper half of the West Bow, and a considerable part of the Lawnmarket, will be demolished; and many public and private buildings, in the most splendid style of modern architecture,

will be substituted in their place. The western approach is to lead from the head of the West Bow, along the south Castle-bank, and beneath the rocks upon the south side of that fortress ; thence, by a bridge, to communicate with various streets, which are yet to be built upon the plain south-west from the Castle. The southern approach leads from the same point, along the back of the Lawnmarket, to a spot almost opposite the head of Bank Street ; from thence, by a bridge, across the Cowgate, past Bristo Port, and to join the line of the Meadow Walk, which is then to be a road or street.—At the junction of all these *approaches*, there will be a considerable oblong space, where it is intended to make public buildings predominate, on account of the numerous prominent situations afforded for ornamental structures.

The esplanade in front of the Castle is to remain at its present height, and to be connected with the inferior level of the street by a flight of stone-steps at the eastern extremity. A carriage-way is also to sweep round each side, and, by a gradual ascent, to reach the present draw-bridge. It is intended to sink the Water Reservoir entirely beneath this esplanade.

The demolitions occasioned in a lower part of the High Street by the late fires, have also suggested various improvements in that quarter. It is proposed to carry a street eastward from the Parliament Square, behind or over the Police Office, and to bring it into the High Street at the Old Assembly Close by a circular bend. Another project is to carry a new street from the Parliament Square across the Cowgate, by an arch, to the open ground opposite to the Trades Maiden Hospital ; and to bring the same, at right angles, into a projected street running from east to west, between Brown's Square and Adam's Square. It is part of this plan, to remove the buildings to a greater distance from the walls of the College, and to plant the open space as a shrubbery.

The credit of planning these magnificent improvements belongs, we believe, to Mr. Hamilton, architect ; and it is to the present chief magistrate that the praise is due of having designed the execution of a plan which involved so many obstacles, and of which the splendour and utility are at once so apparent. At present, (August 1825,) when this gentleman is about to retire from office, loaded with the gra-

titude and esteem of all ranks of his fellow-citizens, though without having yet seen the accomplishment of his designs, we conceive that some public expression is eminently called for, if not of satisfaction with what he has *done*, at least of admiration of what he has *designed*; and as, where so much is required, even the smallest tribute may be of service, these very humble sheets are, as a mark of respect,

INSCRIBED

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ALEXANDER HENDERSON,

OF PRESS,

LORD PROVOST AND LORD LIEUTENANT

OF THE

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

INDIA PLACE, Aug. 16, 1825.

SUPPLEMENT.

LEITH.

LEITH is the sea-port of Edinburgh, and, in every respect, a dependency of the capital. It is situated at the distance of about a mile and a half to the north ; and is connected with the city by a beautifully paved way, now lined with houses, and flanked with streets. LEITH WALK pursues the line of an intrenchment cast up by the Scottish army, in 1650, as a defence against the troops of Cromwell ; and which having been levelled about twenty-five years ago, was then transformed into a road, said to have been surpassed by few of the Roman *Vice*, and to have at present no equal in the world, in respect of dimensions, workmanship, and the nature of the surrounding objects.

Leith is divided into two districts, North and

South Leith, separated from each other by the river, whose mouth forms the harbour. The ancient part of the town is irregular, and by no means prepossessing in appearance ; but, in various parts of the neighbourhood, new streets and villas have been recently erected, in a style of considerable elegance and commodiousness. The Custom House, Trinity House, Assembly Rooms, and several other of the modern public buildings, are by no means deficient either in point of size or beauty of architecture.

The harbour is crossed by two draw-bridges, connecting North with South Leith ; and the bar at its entry is protected by a pier, which runs out a considerable length into the sea. A Martello Tower, about a mile from the harbour, was erected during the last war, at an expense, it is said, of £17,000. Adjoining to the harbour, upon the west, and stretching towards Newhaven, a range of Wet Docks were commenced in 1800, under the management of the magistrates of Edinburgh. Of these two were completed by 1817, at an expense of £285,000 ; and the third, and largest, which was to be entered also at the pier of Newhaven, is, for the present, left in projection. The magistrates attempted, in 1824, to transfer the property of

these accommodations to a joint-stock company of private individuals ; but the scheme was successfully opposed in parliament by the merchants of Leith, who looked upon this measure as inimical to the interests of the port.

Adjacent to the west end of the Wet Docks stands *Leith Fort*, erected here upwards of forty years ago, and capable of containing several companies of artillery. Farther to the west lies the prosperous fishing and *sea-bathing* village of NEWHAVEN, with a harbour, which is now the principal resort of the steam and ferry-boats. Near Newhaven, at Trinity, a chain-pier, similar to that at Brighton, was erected, in 1821, by Captain Samuel Brown, for the use of the steam-boats belonging to one of the Leith shipping companies. Besides the numerous steam-boats which sail from these places, every few hours, for the opposite coast, there are several which make regular voyages to London, Aberdeen, &c.

To the east of the town of Leith lie the Seafield Baths, where there is an elegant hotel, besides all descriptions of baths ; and in the neighbourhood are some handsome villas, for the accommodation of valetudinarians.

Leith is governed by a baron-bailie, with the title of Admiral, appointed by the magistrates of Edinburgh, and who nominates three persons residing in Leith, as his deputies, with the title of Resident Bailies. There are four incorporations, a Merchant Company, a Charitable Association of Mariners, &c. &c.

The history of Leith embraces a few points of interest. It was cherished and fortified by Mary of Guise, the Queen Regent, who considered it valuable, as affording a convenient place for the landing of the French troops, by whose assistance she resisted the progress of the reformers. It was besieged by the reforming party in 1560, and was shortly after that period evacuated by the French. The fortifications were then demolished by the magistrates of Edinburgh. A new fortification, in the shape of a citadel, with five bastions, was erected by Oliver Cromwell, who resided for a considerable time in Leith. This citadel partly stood upon the site of Couper Street, in North Leith, and communicated with the sea. It was dismantled at the Restoration; though some portions of the ruins exist even at the present day. When King Charles II was invited by

the Scottish Parliament to come to Scotland, in 1650, he landed at Leith, and lodged for the first night in Lord Balmerino's house, which yet exists within a court near the junction of Coatfield Lane with the Kirkgate, and is remarkable as a good and very entire specimen of a Scottish nobleman's town-mansion in the seventeenth century. Besides this royal landing, Leith has been, at various times, honoured by the arrival on its shore, of King James V, his two different queens, Queen Mary, King James VI, Charles I, the Duke of York; and, lastly, upon the 15th of August 1822, his present Majesty, who landed at a spot a little to the north of the New Draw-bridge, where an inscribed plate has been inserted in the pavement, to commemorate that auspicious event.

EDINBURGH AND ATHENS.

THAT Edinburgh resembles Athens was first pointed out by the Athenian Stuart, whose opinion has been confirmed by various succeeding travellers. Dr. Clarke speaks decidedly to the same effect ; and finely adds, that the neighbourhood of Athens is just the Highlands of Scotland, enriched with the splendid remains of art. One of the latest travellers, Mr. H. W. Williams, whose beautiful drawings of the scenery and ruins of Attica have lately furnished by far the most exquisite specimen of the arts ever produced in Scotland, in various parts of his "Travels," confirms the statements of his predecessors, and says, moreover, that, "suppose the lakes of Scotland were plains, he knows no country so like illustrious Greece," [vol. II, 274.] This gentleman has also said, "the distant view of Athens from the Ægean sea, is extremely like that of Edinburgh from the Firth of Forth, though certainly the latter is *considerably super-*

rior." [vol. II, 384.] In addition to and in confirmation of his printed opinions, Mr. Williams has kindly contributed, for the use of this work, a brief comparison of the two cities; and we announce, with great pleasure, that it is the design of this gentleman to publish two uniform engravings, representing the Ancient and the Modern Athens, as seen from the points where their resemblance is most conspicuous.

The epithets "Northern Athens" and "Modern Athens" have been so frequently applied to Edinburgh, that the mind unconsciously yields to the illusion awakened by these terms, and imagines that the resemblance between these cities must extend from the natural localities, and the public buildings, to the streets and private edifices. The very reverse of this is the case: for, setting aside her public structures, Athens, even in her best days, could not have coped with the capital of Scotland. The truth is, that the comforts of the Athenians were constantly sacrificed to the public benefit; and the ruins which still remain to attest the unrivalled magnificence of the temples of Athens,

afford no criterion by which we may judge of the character of her private dwellings. Athens,—as it now exists, independent of its ruins, and deprived of the charm of association,—is contemptible: its houses are mean, and its streets scarcely deserve the name. Still, however, “when distance lends enchantment to the view,” even the mud-walls of Athens assume features of importance, and the modern city appears almost worthy of the Acropolis which ornaments it. It is when seen under this advantage, that the likeness of Edinburgh to Athens is most strikingly apparent.

There are several points of view, on the elevated grounds near Edinburgh, from which this resemblance is almost complete. From Tor-Phin, in particular, one of the low heads of the Pentlands, immediately above the village of Colinton, the landscape is exactly that of the vicinity of Athens, as viewed from the bottom of Mount Anchesmus. Close upon the right, Brilessus is represented by the mound of Braid; before us, in the abrupt and dark mass of the Castle, rises the Acropolis; the hill Lycabetus, joined to that of the Areopagus, appears in the Calton; in the Firth of Forth, we behold the

Ægean sea,—in Inch-Keith, Ægina ; and the hills of the Peleponnesus are precisely those of the opposite coast of Fife. Nor is the resemblance less striking in the general characteristics of the scene ; for, although we cannot exclaim, “these are the groves of the Academy, and that the Sacred Way !” yet, as on the Attic shore, we certainly here behold,—

“——— A country rich and gay,
Broke into hills with balmy odours crowned,
And —————— joyous vales,
Mountains and streams, ——————
And clustering towns, and monuments of fame,
And scenes of glorious deeds, in little bounds !”

It is, indeed, most remarkable and astonishing, that two cities, placed at such a distance from each other, and so different in every political and artificial circumstance, should *naturally* be so alike. Were the National Monument to be erected upon the site of the present Barracks in the Castle, an important additional feature of resemblance would be conferred upon the landscape ; that being the corresponding position of the Parthenon in the Acropolis.

LIST OF HOTELS.

- Ambrose's Hotel, 1, Picardy Place.
Barry's Hotel, 8, Prince's Street.
Barclay's Hotel, and Lord Nelson Tavern, Adam's Square.
Black Bull Inn and Hotel, (Steventon,) 1, Catherine Street.
British Hotel, (Cockburn's,) 70, Queen Street.
Buck's Head Hotel, (Sorlie's,) 91, Prince's Street.
Crown Hotel, (Meldrum's,) 11, Prince's Street.
Douglas's Hotel, 1, St. Andrew Square.
Ferguson's Ship Tavern and Hotel, 7, East Register Street.
Gibb's Hotel, (late Oman's,) Waterloo Buildings.
Mackay's (late Macgregor's) 18 & 19, Prince's Street.
Macpherson's Hotel, (late Shaw's,) 21 & 22, Prince's Street.
Oman's Hotel, 4 & 6, Charlotte Square.
Royal Hotel, (Ross,) 53, Prince's Street.
Star Hotel, (Scott,) 36, Prince's Street.
Sutherland's Private Hotel, 25, Great King Street.
Union Hotel, (Macgregor,) 30, St. Andrew's Square.
White Horse Inn, Head of Canongate.
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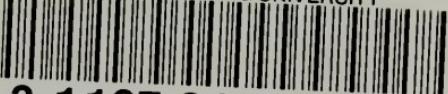
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